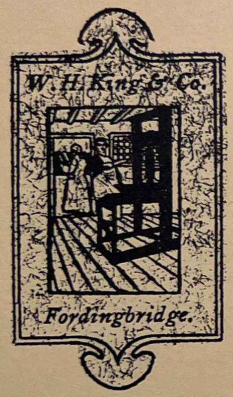
THIRD EDITION

A History of Fordingbridge and Neighbourhood

BY

REGINALD HANNEN.

Price One Shilling.



"There is much matter to be heard and learned."
("*As You Like It.*"—Act V., Scene 4.)

· A HISTORY ·

OF

FORDINGBRIDGE

And Neighbourhood.

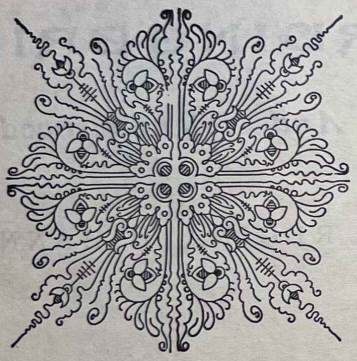
By REGINALD HANNEN.

THIRD EDITION.

FORDINGBRIDGE:

PRINTED BY W. H. KING AND CO., SALISBURY STREET.

1909.



PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

In presenting this little Book to the Public, I wish to say that my object has been to gather reliable information concerning the town and its environs, believing that it would prove interesting to the inhabitants. The notices are the result of my personal observation and enquiry, and I take this opportunity of thanking those who have so kindly assisted me in my search for Historical and Topographical facts, especially Mr. Hannen *and* Mr. Mitchell. *I have also to express my indebtedness to* Mr. White *and* Mr. Wise, *from whose works I have culled many interesting fragments. The Chapter on the Geological History of the District has been kindly furnished by* Mr. E. Westlake; *that on the Flora and Fauna by* Mr. Rake. *To both gentlemen I tender my sincere thanks for the interest they have taken in the matter.*

Further apology is unnecessary. My motive has been to interest the natives and inhabitants of Fordingbridge, and to their indulgence I now submit my effort.

Reginald St. John Hannen.

Fordingbridge, November, 1883.

ADVERTISEMENT.
Second Edition (2,000).

The First Edition of 2,000 copies of this work, issued in connection with *Mitchell's Fordingbridge Almanack and Directory,* having been long since sold out, the work of re-publishing a revised and enlarged edition has been undertaken to meet the demand for authentic local information.

NOTICE OF THE THIRD EDITION
(1,000).

The History has again been revised, and many items of interest added.

Reginald Hannen.

April, 1909.

Chapter I.

Situation and Antiquity.

Fordingbridge is a small Town situate on the North-west bank of the River Avon, 6 miles North of Ringwood, 12 miles South of Salisbury, 20 miles from Southampton, 26 from Winchester, and 97 from London.

According to the Doomsday Book, the name was Fordingebrige, and Ptolemy records that it was situated on the Alaun, and hence we get the names Allingham and Abesley; Camden, though doubting the latter, confirms Ptolemy's statement which gives the signification of the word Avon in the British language as "a river." Some topographers state that the town was anciently styled Forde,[a] but the heading of the paragraph in the Doomsday Book relating to Fordingbridge is "Fordingebridge Hund." Some old Books have Fortinbrige—"The Silverbridge of Anthony Trollope," and he speaks of it as "that ancient Borough."[aa] The following is an extract from the Book:—"The "King (i.e. Edward the Confessor) himself held Slacha in his "Forests, Alestan (presumably Earl Alan) held in alodiu[ab] of "King Edward, then he paid for a half-hide which Radnef di "Limesi received, the King himself held Jvare[b] in the Forest. In

a.—Camden's Britannica Saxonica, 1598.

aa.—Bradley's Round About Wiltshire.

ab.—"The lands which were distributed by lot to the first settlers" amongst barbarous nations who depopulated Southern Europe, "were denominated *allodial*, for this is the original signification of the term, as explained by Du Cange, and other glossarists. These they possessed in full proprietary, not only for life but in perpetuity. They could alienate or dispose of them in any manner they might think proper, and they could bequeath them to their relatives and friends, as their affections or regard might happen to direct them. For these they owed no feudatory services, but bound themselves by fines, imposed with their own concurrence, to obey the summons of their chiefs. . . The transition from *allodial* to *feudal* property took place by slow degrees."—*Rev. W. Bawdwen's translation of the Doomsday Book.*

b —"New Forest," by Wise, p. 105, Roger de Yvery had large Estates near the Forest, and Camden informs us he was Governor of the Castle Rouen. Jvare is probably Eyeworth.—*Wise, p. 114.*

"this Hund the King held one hide of land, which Edric held in "alodiu of King Edward." A hide of land was an uncertain quantity—as much as could be tilled by one ploughman in a year —usually one hundred acres. Wise quoting Doomsday says, "It had a church and two mills and thirty acres of meadow; "these mills were assessed at 14/2. The beech and oak woods "worth for pannage 20/- a year were afforested, yet the same "rental was paid as in Edward the Confessor's reign."[c]

Before proceeding further, it may be well to pause here and glance hastily at the earliest history of the County called Hampshire, Hants, or County of Southampton, these names being derived from the river Test which flows from Andover to Southampton; the ancient name of this stream was Anton, and it is believed to correspond with the Antonia of Tacitus. In Doomsday Book the County is styled Hantescire; and Southampton, Hantun. Camden calls Hampshire, Hamtuncyre, Hamteschyre, Hampteshire and Hamtunscyre; South was probably prefixed to the word Anton to distinguish it from the ancient hamlet of Northam; it is therefore easy to trace the growth of the terms Hampshire and Southampton from the old words Anton and Hantun. Hampshire was the first province reduced to the power of the Romans, and was conquered by Vespasian.[d]

Winchester, the capital of the County, was first styled "Gwent," "Caer Gwent," that is the White City, on account of the chalk cliffs and hills surrounding the town. The fortress was named Gwent Caester, and from it the whole city acquired its present name, gradually passing from Gwentcaester, Wintanceaster to Wintonia, Winton and Winchester.

History informs us that a tribe of "Cymric Celts," who had emigrated here from Gaul about 1000 B.C., were the aborigines of Britain. These were by-and-by dispossessed by the "Belgae," who took possession of a large part of South Hampshire; they also drove out the tribe Segontiaci, who inhabited part of Hampshire and Berkshire. "Rincewood, Rengewood, or Rin-"wede, was the chief town of this tribe of Regni,[e] or Segontiaci; "they also inhabited inland the Manures (Manors)—says Beda "—whose Hundreds also to this day give a relish to their "names."[ee]

From a little Book called the "Cymri in Hants," recently published by the late Mr. Argyle, of Christchurch, we have gleaned the following interesting statement:—

Fordingbridge was called by the British (A.D. about 500) Godeu-Bridge—Caer-leon, meaning the city of the legion, or

c.—Wise's "New Forest," p. 105.
d.—Speed's England and Wales, 1627.
e.—Camden.
ee.—Speed's England and Wales.

King Arthur's city, as it was here that he was first crowned A.D. 511. It was also the head-quarters in 506 of the celebrated General Ambrosius, or Natan-leod, as he was formerly called when leading the men of Niton, and probably he named the camp on the hillside near Castle-hill after his own home—Godshill, in the Isle of Wight.

The great battle of (or for) Achren, or the battle of Godeu, was fought A.D. 508, the British defending the bridge and city against the Saxons led by Cerdic and Cymric; nearly 400 British nobles and 5,000 men fell in the conflict.

The celebrated bard, Taliensin, who was present at this battle, and relates it in the "Battle of the Trees," afterwards became a priest and was attached to the Church of St. Mary at Fordingbridge. He also mentions in the poem that the Avon receives 60 streams (Geoffrey's translation).

In A.D. 491, Cerdic, a Saxon Chief, landed in Hampshire, probably at Calshot Castle, at the entrance to the Southampton Water, "as the original name was Cerdices Ora,"[f] and soon became King of Wessex, which then included Hants, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wilts and Berks, and formed one of the seven Kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy. Cerdic, after many sanguinary encounters with the Britons, at last utterly defeated them at a battle near the Ford of Cerdick, formerly Cerdices Ford, afterward Cerdeford, and now Charford,[g] in the year A.D. 519. It is believed that, after the battle (see *Tales of the Hundred of Ford*), Cerdic crossed the River Avon here; hence the name Cerdic's Ford (corrupted into Charford), given to this neighbourhood. The Saxons introduced the Tythings, or as the Anglo-Saxon has it, "Teothing," synonymous with Ward. Here then was Wessex founded—the Kingdom of England planted.

Probably, an important Saxon Colony was instituted, with a great Monastic Settlement (see Chapter V.), and a Saxon Church at Breamore, probably rebuilt by the Normans.

Every man whose rank and property did not afford an ostensible guarantee for his peaceable and good conduct, was compelled, after the reign of Athelstane, A.D. 941, to find a surety. This was afforded by the system of tythings, the members of which (at first a company of ten)[h] formed as it were a perpetual bail for one another's appearance in cases of crime, with an ultimate responsibility if the criminal escaped, or if his estate proved insufficient to pay the penalties incurred.

f.—Simpson's Agreeable Historian, 1746.
g.—Camden's Britannica.
h.—Cowell.

In A.D. 1066, William of Normandy landed in Sussex, and shortly established himself as King. In A.D. 1080, William laid waste, say some historians, the South-west part of Hampshire, or as Lappenburgh states, "the most thriving part of England, "between the Southampton Water and the River Avon," and beyond it, destroying 36 churches, besides villages and hamlets, taking possession of about 60,000 acres to form a hunting ground. Gulielmus Gemeticensis, however, avers that "William simply "enlarged a former chase."[i] Other historians again attribute the formation of the New Forest to William Rufus, the "Red King,"[j] and Knyghton is uncertain whether the number of churches destroyed was 22 or 52. Wise thinks that there is no sufficient proof to warrant the statement made of William's cruelty, and he holds the opinion that "only waste lands were "enclosed, the cultivated spared."[k] The Forest was first called Ytene.[l] A Forest is a teritorie of woody ground and fruitful pastures. Actually a Forest is royal property, set apart as a sanctuary for wild animals; if the owner be other than the Crown, it is a Chase.[ll] Manwood gives the Foresters' oath :—

"You shall true liegemen be
Unto the King's Majestie;
Unto the beasts of the Forest you shall no hurt do,
Nor to anything that doth belong thereto;
The offences of others you shall not conceal,
But to the utmost of your power you shall them reveal;
All these things you shall see done,
So help you God at His holy doom."

It is a tradition that Nemesis overtook the family of Duke William in this Forest. Rufus, whose story is so admirably told by G. W. Thornbury, in his fine poem, "The Death of Rufus," was slain by an arrow from the bow of some unknown person; there is, however, but little doubt that the King was murdered,[m] falling a victim to ecclesiastical conspirators; and though Tyrell is credited in history with having been his slayer, this is fully contradicted by his own solemn death-bed confession.[n] Tyrell, after wounding the King, immediately set off for France, and he is said to have had his horse shod at a blacksmith's shop close to the "Old Queen" Inn (now pulled down) at Avon, and then to have crossed the Avon there, the ford at that place being still known by the name of "Tyrell's Ford," and the Lord Lieutenant of the County pays annually to the Crown a fine of £3 10s. for having allowed the regicide to escape from Hampshire into Dorsetshire by that way. It is believed that Sir Walter Tyrell reached Poole, and thence sailed to Normandy.

i.—Wise's New Forest.
j.—Walter Mapes. Knyghton, temp. Richard II. Wise's New Forest.
k.—Wise's New Forest, p. 27.
l.—Camden.
m.—Wise's New Forest, p. 93.
n.—History of England, vol. IV., p. 167.
ll.—Manwood's Treatise of the Laws of the Forest.

The "broad green glade,"[o] where the King met his destiny, was known as Thorougham, and a chapel was afterwards built to the memory of Rufus, and this was standing in Leland's time.[p] It has been suggested that this chapel may have been at Canterton, i.e., Chanters Town.

Touching the death of Richard, brother to Rufus, historians do not agree. Some affirm that he was gored to death by a

Photo. by] RUFUS' STONE. [LOCK.

deer,[q] others that he died from the effects of a blow against a tree,[r] and others, again, that he was poisoned by a pestilential ayre,[s] whilst hunting in the Forest. Henry,[t] grandson of William the Conqueror, or Richard, nephew of Rufus,[u] was killed

o.—G. W. Thornbury.
p.—Leland's Itinerary, vol. VI., p. 100.
q.—Speed.
r.—Camden.
s.—Speed. ———and Camden.
t.—White's Hampshire.
u.—Wise's New Forest.

either by an arrow transfixing him, or, "was so struck by a "bough in the mouth, that he was lifted from the saddle, and so "hung until he died." These stories are probably legends and nothing more.

The Doomsday Book, to which reference has been already made, was compiled by Alfred the Great, and was finished in 1086; it is still carefully preserved in the Chapter House, at Westminster; but in the reign of George III. it was deemed advisable to print a number of copies for the use of Parliament, and the public and private libraries of the kingdom. The book when first written was styled "Liber de Wintonia," that is the book (or more correctly the roll) of Winchester. At this period Winchester was the metropolis of the kingdom, and the seat of the Court until about the year 1377, when it began to decline in importance. Edward III., who established the "Order of the Knights of the Garter," re-built St. Stephen's Chapel, at Westminster, and Parliament then assembled in the Chapter House there, and from this time forth London became the seat of Government and of Royalty.

The County of Hampshire is bounded on the North by Berkshire, on the East by Sussex and Surrey, on the South by the English Channel, and on the West by Wiltshire and Dorsetshire. Amongst the former Knights of the Shire it may be interesting to our readers to note the following names:—

Johannes de Lisle,	in the reign of	Henry IV.
Johannes de Lisle,	"	Henry VI.
Thomas Lisle,	"	Henry VIII.
Johannes Bulkley,	Commonwealth and reign of Charles II.	

And amongst the Sheriffs.

Johannes de Lisle,	in the reign of	Henry VI.
Carlus Bulkley,	"	Edward IV.
Johannes Paulet,	"	Henry VII.
Michael Lyster,	"	Edward VI.
Edward Lisle,	"	Anne.
Jeremiah Cray, of Ibsley,	"	George II.
Sir Edward Hulse,	"	George III.
Sir Charles Hulse,	"	William IV.
Sir Edward Hulse,	"	Victoria.

"The air of the County is temperate, though somewhat thicke "by reason of the seas and many rivuers that thorow the Shire "doe fall, whose plentie of fish and fruitful increase doe mani- "foldly redeeme the harmes which they make. The soil is rich "for corn and cattle, pleasante for pasturage, and plenteous for "woods, in a word in all commodities either for sea or land

"blessed and happy. The commodities gotten in this Shire are "wools, cloths, and iron, whereof a great store is therein wrought "from the mines, and these transported into all partes of this "realme."[v] In the time of Queen Elizabeth, the manufacture of woollen fabrics seems to have been carried on at Fordingbridge, and later the weaving of serge, bed-tick, sail-cloth, and checks, the printing of calico and linen, spinning of flax,[w] making of rope and twine, and tanning were among the industries of the Town, which, according to the general report, was once much larger than at present, extending southwards and westwards to such an extent as to place the Church in the centre of the Town. If such was the case, the fires said to have occurred were of an unusually destructive nature, as few if any traces remain to favour this hypothesis.

Fordingbridge is the head of a Poor-law Union, comprising Allenford, Ashley Walk, Breamore, North and South Charfords, Damerham, Fordingbridge, Hale, Martin, Rockbourne, Toyd, Whitsbury, and Woodgreen. Some of these Parishes are, for Parliamentary purposes, in the County of Wilts.

The Parish is further divided into seven tythings, i.e., Town, Bickton, North, South and Middle Burgate, Midgham and Godshill, and extends over six Manors, viz., the Manors of Fordingbridge, Burgate, Sandle, Arnis, Bickton and Woodfidley Rectory. The district shares with Ringwood a County Court.

The Hundred of Ford, comprising 31,000 acres, with a population of 5,216, or 1,116 inhabited houses, includes Ashley Lodge, Broomey Lodge, Breamore, Bickton, North, South and Middle Burgate, North and South Charford, Ellingham, Godshill Wood, Godshill, Hale, Ibsley, Linford, Linwood, New Grounds, New Forest, Roe Enclosure Cottage, and Woodgreen.

The population of the Parish of Fordingbridge was—

In 1801,	2,335.[x]	
1821,	2,444,	with 428 houses.
1841,	3,073,	" 5,818 acres.
1871,	3,053,	" 837 houses.
1881,	2,962,	" 841 "
1901,	3,155.	

In 1801,	the Rateable Value was	£9,040.
1871,	" "	£13,925.
1881,	" "	£14,554.
1883,	" "	£13,210.
1908,	" "	£26,375.

v.—Speed. w.—Beauties of England and Wales, 1805.
x.—Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary, 1808.

The Town was formerly governed by a High Constable,[y] chosen annually at the "Court Baron" of John Coventry, Esq., who is Lord of the Manors of Burgate, Sandle, and Arnis, or Irsland,[z] as the name was anciently spelt, and Lord paramount of the Hundred of Ford (see page 11). The Court of the Hundred, or Court Leet,[zz] or "Hundred Mote," was primarily a Court of Justice for all suitors in the Hundred, but important cases were decided at the "Shire Mote." In course of time, however, the Court of "Hundred Mote" had jurisdiction only over petty offences, and was responsible for the appointment and maintenance of local Guardians of the Peace.

The "Court Baron" was an institution of the feudal system, by which the military tenants of the Crown were obliged to attend Court at three great festivals yearly, and were called the King's Barons, and their lands were consequently called "baronies." The Court itself was a Civil tribunal with a jury of freeholders.

The Doomsday Book records that there were at Ford two mills (one at Borgate, now Burgate, the other was Byketon, now Bickton), of which we shall speak presently.

The Lord of the Manor of Fordingbridge is Charles Robert Prideaux Brune, of Prideaux Place, Padstow, in Cornwall. His family is of very ancient origin; their ancestor was one William le Brun, who accompanied Queen Eleanor of Provence to this country, upon her marriage with King Edward I., which King granted to le Brun, his chamberlain, "the Manors of Fordingbridge, Parley and Rowner, with free warren." He married Isolda, Maid of Honour to the Queen.

The Manor of Fordingbridge was usually held as a fief by a knight, it was also commonly held by him of a superior lord as part of some great earldom. Thus, the superior lord of Henry III.'s time was Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and in the time of Edward II., Gilbert de Clare of the same earldom. Later on the superior lord was Ralfe, Earl of Stafford, through his wife, Margaret, daughter and heiress of Hugh d'Audley, Earl of Gloucester. In Edward I.'s time, John, Earl of Kent, held it within his great lordship. In Edward III.'s time, it was part of the lordship of Edmund, Earl of Kent. Later on it was held by his widow, Elizabeth. In Richard II.'s time, the superior Lord of Fordingbridge was Thomas, Earl of Stafford. In Henry IV.'s time, Henry, Earl of Stafford, held it as part of his lordship, and it subsequently passed with the Staffords to the Duke of Buckingham. In 3 Henry VI., Edmund Mortimer, Earl of

y.—Bell's Gazetteer. Court Rolls of Hundred of Ford.
z.—Lewis' Historical Inquiry concerning Forests, 1811.
zz.—From the Saxon lite = little and laet = a Judge.

March, had some connexion with the Manor. Fordingbridge is thus connected, through its superior lords directly, with great events in our national history. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, fell at the battle of Bannockburn. Edmund, Earl of Kent, was beheaded during the minority of his nephew, Edward III. Edmund, Earl of Stafford, was killed in 1403 at the battle of Shrewsbury. Humphrey de Stafford, Earl, and first Duke of Buckingham, was killed at the battle of Northampton in 1460. His grandson, Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was beheaded at Salisbury early in Richard III.'s reign. The Parish of Fordingbridge included the Town, and also the important Manor of Burgate. Among the ancient Lords of Burgate were those of the families of de Langley and de Pembridge in the 14th century, Lekhulle or Sekehull, Hall, and Ryvers, in the time of Henry VI., and Bulkeley, whose connexion with it appears to have begun in the time of Richard III. The ancient Lords of Fordingbridge Manor itself were the Faleis in the 13th century, and the Bruyn family, whose long connexion with it began in the 14th century, and has lasted until the present time. There were several other small Manors within Fordingbridge; among these were the Manor of Folde, 100 acres land and 200 acres pasture called Sondyballas, with appurtenances in Fordingbridge, and the Manor of Est Mylle beside Fordingbridge, both held of the King in chief, and are mentioned in the Inquisitiones post mortem temp. Henry VII.

The Lord of the Manor of Fordingbridge was obliged during "fence month" (that is, from fifteen days before and after old Midsummer day) to keep (find) watch and ward upon the Bridge spanning the Avon here, as by this way only could persons going North-west from the Forest leave it. The watch was summoned and set by the High Constable in these words:—

> "I, A.B., High Constable of the Hundred of Ford, so "command you, and each of you, on behalf of our most gracious "Sovereign Lord the King, to keep watch on this Bridge until "sunrise, and to detain all persons who shall be found to "have in their possession venison taken from the New Forest, "the property of His Majesty the King. Herein fail not at "your peril."[a]

The weapons then delivered to the guard resembled a pike, or a hurdler's hook, having an eight feet handle. On the approach of carts of suspected deer stealers, the guards, by lowering their pikes to an horizontal position, and holding one extremity against the body whilst the hooked end rested on the iron railings of the Bridge, presented a substantial barrier to the passage of any

a.—Court Rolls.

person or vehicle. The guards' weapons were, until recently, in the possession of the late Mr. Hannen, the late local Agent of the Lord of the Manor, but are now at Prideaux Place.

Wise, referring to this custom of setting a watch, says—"A tradition of this sort lingers in the neighbourhood,"—but it is more than a tradition, as we had the information from the lips of two of the oldest inhabitants of the Town, both of whom have taken part in the custom, and whose veracity is unimpeachable (see also Court Rolls).

Blount mentions that "Richard Carevile here held 6 librates of land a year of King Edward I."[b] (in whose reign we find the Forest was at its largest),[c] "by finding a Sergeant-at-arms in the King's army for 40 days a year."[b]

We have already mentioned that in the year 1801 the population of the Parish was 2,335; and it is further worthy of notice that in 1803, the period of the war against the French, the rates levied amounted to £2,712 16s. 5d., or 6s. 1¾d. in the £.[d]

In 1830, stage coaches ran in connection with the London coaches, from Salisbury to Poole and from Shaftesbury to Southampton, passing through Fordingbridge three times a week; Messrs. Rouse and Philpott also advertised fly waggons to London, Salisbury, Southampton, Poole and Ringwood.

At this period there seem to have been special advantages in the Town to meet the requirements of juvenile education, there being no less than eight private academies and schools.[e]

b.—Blount's Fragmenta Antiqua and Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary.
c.—Wise's New Forest.
d.—Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary, 1808.
e.—Pigot's Directory, 1830.

Chapter II.

THE TOWN.

AT the North end of the Town is the old Court House, four lime trees standing before its bay windows, which command a pleasant view down Salisbury Street. Here, twice a year, were, quite recently, held the Baronial Courts of the Liberty and Manor of Burgate, and of the Hundred of Ford; at this Court, until the year 1878, the Constable of the Parish was elected, and after having taken the oath he received the Staff of Office.

In former days the duties of this official were very onerous. He was responsible for the peace of the Town; arrested, lodged in jail, and boarded prisoners; summoned and set the watch during "fence month." The mode of summoning was crude in the extreme; the Constable went round during the day, and with a piece of chalk made a mark resembling a 2 and 4 in one figure upon the doors of the houses occupied by the four persons selected to form the watch for the night. The setting of the watch (see page 13) was discontinued in 1840. It was also his duty to examine weights and measures of various kinds. The old standard bushel measure, known as the "Winchester," and the copper quart, were for many years in the possession of the late Mr. Hannen.

The Constable, when it was necessary, conveyed prisoners to Winchester for trial, and carried up to that city yearly the "County money" or rates. On Sundays, it was customary for him, together with the Churchwardens, to leave Church during Divine Service, and visit the various Public Houses in the Town and note the persons found there engaged in drinking. His assistants were the Tythingmen, who were appointed by the Court of the Tything which they represented.

On the right is Upton House, built in 1811 for a Commercial School, which gained considerable repute.

Opposite is Avon House, formerly the "Star" Hotel, and principal posting house in the neighbourhood; the Assembly Room was, during the construction of the Roman Catholic Chapel (on the road leading to Salisbury, built in 1873, of concrete), used as a place of worship by those professing the faith of Rome, and is now the head-quarters of the Salvation Army.

Photo. by] SALISBURY STREET. [THOMSON.
Looking North.

The neat residence adjoining Avon House occupies the site of a very ancient tenement, the entry of which was down several steps. One Rachael Dyer dwelt there, who had a great custom for a peculiar sort of lozenge made by her, and known by a name more graphic than polite.

The next house is one of the old style, and was many years since a shop. Opposite are situate the premises where the old-established printing, bookbinding and label making business, established by the late Mr. Titus Mitchell, is now conducted by Messrs. W. H. King & Co., having been removed thither in 1869. The history of printing in the town dates from 1830, when Mr. Benjamin Budd, son of a local medical practitioner, purchased a small printing plant at Salisbury, and commenced business on the site now occupied by a Chemist, in High Street, He was succeeded by Mr. W. L. Fulford, on whose death Messrs.

Cusse & Co. became the proprietors, of whom Mr. Mitchell purchased the business in 1857, and on relinquishing the sale of groceries and provisions, removed it to the present position. Adjoining is the Chapel House, formerly a shop, but now a private residence. In this house lived Michael Lester, who, for a few years, was landlord of the "Greyhound" Hotel, where he died in 1831: by his will, which he signed Michael Lester Street, and which was attested by Titus Mitchell and John Keay, he devised this house in trust to Alexander Good, the Minister of the Independent Chapel (the law not permitting a man to give property to a Church or Chapel less than twelve months prior to the Testator's death); the trustee was to transfer it to officials of the Chapel. After considerable delay, the property was finally made over to, and invested in trustees, for the benefit of the Services of the Chapel.

Almost adjoining is the Independent Chapel, referred to in the preceding paragraph. The first building is said to have been the Chapel of the Hospital of St. John, or St. John of Jerusalem, as it is designated in the deeds of 1665. In 1697, this was replaced by building a Presbyterian Chapel; and in 1832 (1836), the walls were again levelled, but the galleries left standing, and the present edifice built up around them. In the centre of the building, underneath the floor, are two round stones, which are the bases of the wooden pillars which once supported the roof. The Chapel was re-pewed in 1878, and the New Organ was opened in 1882. In 1903, the Chapel again underwent alterations; the side galleries were removed, and a spacious organ chamber, with accommodation for the choir, was provided; a new rostrum was erected, and new windows fitted with cathedral glass. The seating capacity was increased, and interior appearance improved by a panelled ceiling. The alterations to Chapel and enlargement of the Manse cost just over £1,000. The Minister receives eight shillings, and the poor members of the congregation twenty-two shillings yearly, from an annual rent charge of thirty shillings bequeathed by David Clifford in 1710. David Tizzard, who died in 1835, left an annuity of forty shillings for the yearly distribution of forty-eight sixpenny loaves amongst the poor of the congregation, and sixteen shillings to be paid for a sermon to be preached on the last Sunday in November in every year. Unfortunately, these charities have been lost. The income is augmented by three pounds received for the rent of two acres of land in Brune's Moor and Broad Mead, and by the payment of five pounds rent of a piece of land called "Black Venn," situate at Motcombe, in the Parish of Shaftesbury, in Dorsetshire. The Manse stands in a garden adjoining the Chapel.

Immediately opposite is a butcher's shop, formerly a public house known by the sign of the "King's Arms." In the triangle,

formed by the junction of Salisbury Street and Roundhill, stands a large and somewhat top-heavy street lamp, presented to the Town by King's College, Cambridge, in 1867. The house now occupied by Messrs. W. King & Sons, provision merchants, was, nearly a hundred years ago, a private bank, and it was here that the Wilts and Dorset Company first commenced business in Fordingbridge.

On the other side of the street is the "Greyhound" Hotel; sixty years ago it was also the Post Office. In the cellar is a constant spring of pure water. To celebrate the Coronation of the Queen, a sheep was roasted whole in the space in front of the house. Opposite, a house bears the date 1703.

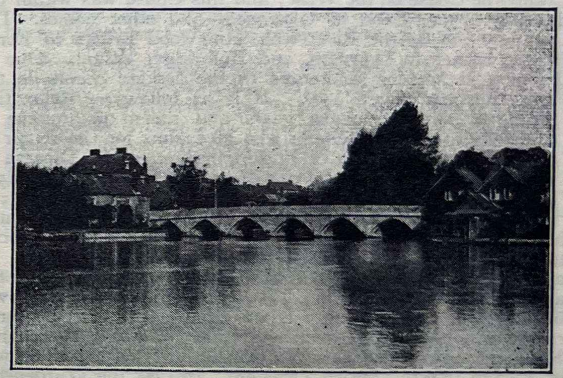
Photo. by] BRIDGE STREET. [LOCK.
From The Square.

At the corner is situated the Wilts and Dorset Bank, an imposing edifice built of red brick faced with Ham stone, built in 1876. On its site, and to the left in Bridge street, were several old and miserable tenements.

Adjoining the "Albany" Temperance Hotel, is the old Bank, now converted into a shop. The "Albany" was built in 1879 as two dwelling houses with shops, but in 1881 it was re-constructed, and a Company formed to open it as an Hotel. The ground floors of the damp and dark houses, which formerly stood here and in the Hotel garden, were much beneath the level of the road, and unfit for habitation. One of these adjoined the corner of the Bridge, and had little Jacobean bay windows to East and

South, so commanding a good view of the traffic on the Bridge, coming from the Forest. This was the watch room.

We now approach the Great Bridge, which here spans the Avon, with seven graceful arches. We have not been able to discover when it was built, but it is believed to have been constructed in the reign of Henry III., probably of timber, and was repaired by "I^no Nutcher, Mason, 1756," at the expense of the County. In 1815, the old stone (brick ?) parapets were replaced by iron railings. The appearance of the bridge in 1837 is well illustrated on the Bank notes of the Wilts and Dorset Bank issued for Fordingbridge. The railings were afterwards removed, and in 1840, the Bridge was widened two feet on each side, and the present stone parapets added. The work was executed by Edmund Brashier, at a cost of £945, and completed



THE BRIDGE.
From The Ham.

in 1841. The earliest portion of the Bridge is built of iron or sand-stone, and is an excellent specimen of work; the addition of 1841 is of Portland stone. It was very thoroughly restored in 1901, and a stone was then found enclosed by masonry, bearing date A.D. 1622. The cement proved harder than the stone-work. During the 1840 restoration, a stone head was discovered under the roadway; it is now to be seen in the garden of Sandle Lodge. Extensive views may here be obtained over the Valley of the Avon and the surrounding neighbourhood, with a glimpse up the River, of Burgate House.

The centre arch of the Bridge is sixteen feet wide, and seven seven feet high from the summer water level, the depth of water being four feet six inches. The River Avon is well known to anglers and gastronomers for its excellent pike, trout and eels; of these latter, indeed, mention is made as early as 1086. It further possesses, in common with some Norwegian and Welsh Streams, the peculiarity of forming ground ice.

The following lines are extracted from Mr. Shore's "Paper" on Fordingbridge:—"The Charter Rolls show that a pontagium for "the Bridge at Fordingbridge was granted in 52 Henry III. "Also a similar grant was made in 55 Henry III. The same "rolls show that a pontagium was also granted to the Men of "Fordingbridge, in aid of the Bridge, 35 Edward III. This "Bridge is of interest to archæologists, as a boundary not only of "the New Forest on the East, but of the ancient limits of "Cranborne Chase on the West; and this Chase was within the "domains of the Earls of Gloucester and other nobles. The "boundary ran up the River from Ringwood Bridge to Forde "Bridge, thence to Downton, and Bulbridge, Wilton. One of "the most interesting references to the Bridge occurs in the "Papal Records, dated 1402. It is as follows:—'Relaxation "'during a period of seven years and seven quadragene of "'enjoined penance to penitents who give alms for the repair of "'the Bridge of the Town of Fordingbridge, in the Diocese of "'Winchester, commonly called 'The Great Bridge of Fordyn-"'brygg.' The Pope forbids presents to be sent by collectors; if "'this be attempted they are invalid.' This dispensation, dated "from St. Peter's, Rome, was clearly a favour by Papal authority "to assist the inhabitants in the maintenance of the Bridge. It "apparently points to a kind of pilgrimage. As regards the "ancient Hospital of St. John, Fordingbridge, its site is known, "but little is known about it. It was apparently an early semi-"religious house of the mediævel type. Bishop Wykeham's "Register shows that the Wardenship of this Hospital was "granted in 1369 to Edward Tavenere. In 1385, the Wardenship "was granted to William Olyoer. In 1396, the same office was "granted to John Tannere. The Bishop of Winchester, probably "Cardinal Beaufort, presented St. John's Hospital, Fordingbridge, "in the 15th century temp. Henry VI., to St. Cross Hospital, "Winchester."

It was in the immediate neighbourhood of Fordingbridge that the improved system of water meadows, now so generally understood and adopted, was first introduced.[i]

On the lower side of the Bridge the water is very deep; in one place the lead sinks twenty-one feet. A few yards down the

i.—Hall's Topographical Remarks.

stream is the old forde, still fordable in the summer time; and beyond it are two islands, forming the ham. The upper islet is rapidly lessening. From it may be obtained an exceedingly picturesque view of the Bridge, and the gardens sloping down to the banks of the Avon.

Sixty years ago, Regattas used to take place upon this part of the River. The regatta flag is still in the possession of Mr. Rake; and a sketch of one of the sailing races is the property of a resident formerly much interested in these contests. A Rowing Club was founded by Mr. R. Hannen, in 1870, but languished for want of support; but in January, 1889, a Rowing and Sailing Club was started by Messrs. F. Gatrell, R. Hannen, C. Neave, and E. T. Lonnen. Their first Regatta was held on August 1st, 1889, when the prize fund amounted to £20, and the subscribers' list totalled £37. From that date the Club has prospered.

There is a local tradition that the Town derives its name from having fourteen (arches or) bridges (Fortenbridge).

Crossing the Bridge, the first house on our left is "Horseport," probably in reference to the ferry or ford. The gardens (which were formerly bleaching yards) are extensive, and are divided by and pleasantly bounded on two sides by the River, though this is a doubtful advantage, as the grounds are occasionally completely submerged. The adjoining houses, now a portion of the residence, were formerly weaving shops; and the centre cottage a beer-house. That portion between the upper house and the lower was once a gateway, but now forms the connecting link.

The last house on this side stands on the site of an old house and carpenter's shop, long since demolished.

The road now diverges—that to the right, over the County Bridge, leads to Ringwood; that to the left, to Stuckton and Southampton. A few yards on this latter, on the left side, was a small dilapidated building, formerly used as a weaving shop. Opposite, recently stood what was once one of the best residences of the Town; notwithstanding its decay, it was a picturesque object to the artist's eye. At the rear is a farm-yard, supposed to be the site of the ancient Hospital of St. John, given by Cardinal Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, 1446, to the Hospital of St. Cross, at Winchester, founded by Bishop Blois in 1134. The Hospital of St. Cross was for poor impotent men . . . with garments, beds, etc. (see Charter, A.D. 1185). The Hospital of St. John was demolished by order of Henry the VI., and its revenues annexed to King's College, Cambridge.[g] This is not strictly correct. Tithe is paid to the College, but the rents for the

g.—Lewis's Historical Inquiries. Leland's Fragmenta Antiqua.

lands of the Hospital are still received by the Trustees of St. Cross. On the South side of the farm-yard stood a barn, since destroyed by fire, believed to have been built on the foundation of the old Chapel attached to the Hospital. The Lieger Book of St. Cross, in vellum, is in the hands of Henry Worsley, of Lincoln's Inn, Esquire.[h]

From the Report of the Commissioners for Inquiry concerning Charities in the County of Southampton, it appears that Cardinal Beaufort, by Charter of July 24th, 1446, had founded a certain Almshouse, called "The House of Noble Poverty," and had granted . . . . . to the Master and Brethren of St. Cross, amongst others, the Hospital of St. John, at Fordingbridge. It moreover appears, from an account of the Steward of the Hospital, for the year ending Michaelmas, in the 18th year of the reign of Henry VIII., that the rent of the Hospital of St. John, Fordingbridge, was £1 12s. The Commissioners further report, that the Farm called St. John's Hospital contains about 40 acres, the tenant being John Pinhorn. Date of lease, 1799, held on the lives of J. W. Middleton and Charlotte Middleton, at a reserved rent of £1 12s.; and that £300 was paid as a fine in 1799.*

During the floods, which sometimes occur from a rapid thaw after deep snow, and more rarely from excessive rain, the Southampton, Stuckton, and Ringwood Roads are submerged. The latter highway then becomes a waterway, and the way-wardens supply a boat for the transit of passengers. At such times it is possible to go by a boat on this road from Fording-bridge to Redbrook. The depth of water in some parts is three feet six inches. The floods are far less severe than formerly.

A curious coincidence may be noted in respect of these floods, when, after long continued rain, the River rapidly rises and floods the adjacent meadows, and then as rapidly recedes, it is an unerring sign that much higher water may be shortly expected. This information was given by an old "drowner," or mead man, and we can also speak from our own experience. The most recent floods were in January, 1883 and 1904, but they did not seriously affect the lower part of the Town.

A few hundred yards on the Stuckton Road is the Cemetery, which was consecrated November 12th, 1896. The land was presented by the late Sir Edward Hulse, Bart.; whilst the Chapel of All Souls was designed, and the erection superintended, by Mr. Reeves, of London, free of charge.

h.—The Hospital of St. Cross was designed for "poor impotent men, reduced in strength, as rarely to be able to support themselves without the assistance of another," with "garments, beds suitable to their infirmities" (Charter A.D. 1185).

h.—Camden.

*Copy of old Document in the Author's possession.

Returning towards the Town, a large building of red brick, the Victoria Rooms, built in 1874, faces us, comprising a large hall on the ground floor and three smaller rooms on the first storey. The County Court is held here. The site was formerly occupied by the British School, and afterwards used as a sail-cloth store. Adjoining were some very low-built houses, whose inhabitants were much inconvenienced by the water during the floods. One of these houses was formerly the "White Hart" Inn.

Re-crossing the Bridge, we arrive at the "George" Inn. The old "George," burnt down in 1852, contained the watch house, or room used by the watch when keeping the Bridge during fence month; it was in the gable end, and entered from the approach to the Bridge. There appears to have been another in the opposite house (see page 18).

A rise of four feet of water in the River causes the water to come up the yard at the rear of the house, and so into the street; this, however, has not been the case since 1851-2. The usual rise for a flood is two feet six, though above the Bridge the water reaches three feet one.

Opposite the old Bank is an excellent draper's shop. A smithy formerly stood here, and proved an attractive rendezvous for children. Adjoining, was a cooper's shop. The "Square," which by the way is a triangle, is well supplied with excellent shops. It is said that a Poultry Cross once adorned it, and that here the country women sold their poultry, eggs and butter, but we have not been able to find any authority for this tradition.

High Street commences with a bicycle shop; this was the "Rose and Crown" Inn, built in 1703, but closed as a public-house in 1894. A little further on, at the corner, in bygone days, was a beer-house, which is now a bakery—a change for the better. The Engine House formerly stood on the space formed by the junction of High Street and Roundhill. In Roundhill is situated the excellent Unionist Club, formerly the Gymnasium, previously the British School, one time known as the Lecture Hall, built in 1850. In 1853, an Exhibition in connection with the local Mechanics' Institution was held in the Hall. Almost adjoining is the Friends' Meeting House (erected on the site of the original building, in 1835), surrounded by its small but pretty burial ground. Opposite the site of the Engine House stood two very ancient tenements; they were pulled down in 1868. We believe Mr. Hannen has a sketch of the cottages.

The next house but one, "St. Ives," with stone window mullions, retains, in a great measure, its former antique style. The residence opposite was formerly three houses, now converted into one. Further on, upon the right, a cottage has been converted into a woollen draper's shop, thereby improving the

appearance of the street. The red brick house, opposite, once the "Swan" Hotel, and previously the "Three Lyons" Hotel,[i] was the scene of a tragedy.[ll]

Proceeding, we come to the Brewery, on the right hand. Opposite, is an ancient tenement, with high bay windows, where a barber still displays his parti-coloured pole. On the left is the Post Office and Telegraph Office: Letters are dispatched and delivered three times daily, Sundays only once.

Close by is the Town Hall, originally built as an Oddfellows' Hall. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs. John Coventry, in 1876. This handsome building cost £2,200. It is built of red brick, faced with stone, and is surmounted by a lofty tower of

Photo. by] HIGH STREET. [THOMSON.
From The Square.

elegant design, containing an excellent clock, which strikes the hours and quarters in Cambridge chimes, and cost £296. The Hall contains, at the rear, a large and lofty room, fitted with a stage, underneath which are two dressing rooms. In this Hall the Dramatic Club entertained large audiences during the winter evenings. There was formerly a Literary and Musical Institute here; this became merged in the Reading Room and Library. In 1901, the Unionist Club absorbed this, and when the Club migrated to its new home, in 1908, the Liberal Club was started in the old rooms. On the first floor is the spacious and

i.—Old Deeds.

ll.—See "Tales of the Hundred of Ford."

comfortable Lodge Room of the Loyal "New Forest" Lodge of Oddfellows, established in the Town in 1844. The Foresters also hold their Court here. A grand Bazaar, lasting three days, was held here in January, 1879, to raise the funds for providing the above-mentioned clock.

Facing, is the "Crown" Hotel, whose sign-post, formerly standing in the street, is now replaced by a more modern advertisement.

We now enter the Market Place, ornamented by a fine triple lamp on stone base, the gift of C. P. Brune, Esq., the Lord of the Manor. Here stood the Market House, in which for many years Mr. Beale kept a School, the rent being £4 per annum.[k]

In 1829, the Market House was pulled down, and the materials sold for £15.[kk] The market day was Saturday,[l] afterwards altered to Friday.

In 1844, an effort was made to revive the market, which for some years had been only in name. The leading farmers and millers, and others of the neighbourhood, pledged themselves to support it; the cattle market being held every alternate Friday at 10; the corn market being every Friday at 11 o'clock, by pitch or sample, at the option of the sellers. This revival of business, however, lasted but a few weeks, and the market now is scarcely nominal. In 1848, wheat was sold here at £7 per load.

To celebrate the Coronation of Queen Victoria in 1838, four sheep were roasted whole in the Market Place. And not far away, i.e., in the "Crown" Barton, in 1815, when peace was proclaimed, an ox was roasted. An ox was also roasted in the Calves' Close, where the Roman Catholic Chapel now stands, when the Prince of Wales was married; and on that occasion there was also a public breakfast at the "Star" Hotel, and a concert and ball at the National Schoolroom.

The first troop of Yeomanry in Fordingbridge was enrolled in 1798, under the command of Captain Hulse and Quarter-master Hannen, but was disbanded in 1827. A new Troop was, however, formed in 1830, after the agricultural riots; the Captain was Eyre Coote, Esq., and the Quarter-master, Mr. Hannen; Lord Normanton afterwards succeeded to the Captaincy, but in 1838 the Troop was finally disbanded.

k.—Manor Survey Book.

kk.—Extract from Books at the Manor Office:—"Feb. 27, 1764. Paid Barter Mitchell for repairing the Market House, £1 13s."

l.—{ Simpson's Agreeable Historian, 1746.
{ Carey's Itinerary. 1798.

On the left were some curious old houses, with antique gabled windows, now the site of the new "Royal Arms" Inn; and here against the wall of the old Inn, and facing the old "New" Inn, stood the stocks. A new "New" Inn has recently been erected, of handsome appearance.

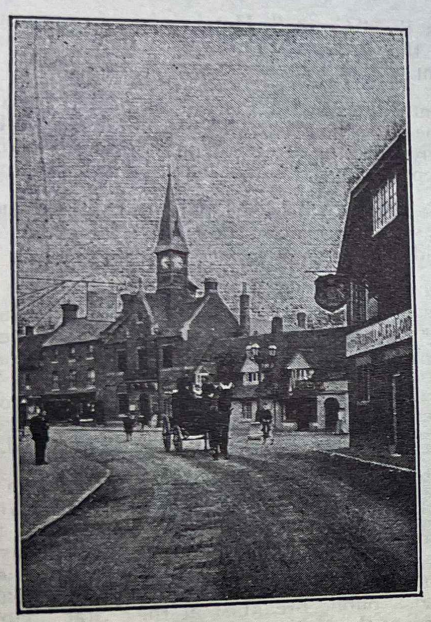


Photo. by] [MARKET PLACE & TOWN HALL. [Lock.

Continuing our course down the thoroughfare, we enter upon Provost Street. At the base of the descent, on the right, stands a very old cottage, once a Dame's School, kept by Mame Pink. Nearly opposite, is the Nursing Home, built in 1897 (in place of the Cottage Hospital), at a cost of £400, from the plans of the late Mr. H. Thompson and Mr. C. Stanford. The porch was added in 1898—a gift by Mr. H. V. Rake, in memory of his father and brother. Near by, is the Chapel of the Plymouth Brethren. The dwelling-house attached to it was formerly the "King's Arms" Inn, of a later date than the house mentioned on page 17. Here the Manor Courts were held until 1868; but a Court is now

kept only when a copyholder has to be admitted as a tenant of the Manor, and this is termed a Special Court.

Opposite is an ancient tenement, built of timber, with brick panels. About fifty yards further on, two red brick cottages mark the site of a curious old shop, which had a projecting tiled roof, termed a "pent-house," over the shop window—only just high enough to allow of a person walking underneath; of such houses there were once many.

In front of us is Knowles' Bridge, built in 1810.[ll] To the left is the Town Mill, enlarged in 1867. The dam forms a fine sheet of water for fishing; trout have been taken here weighing 5 lbs.

The small square pasture near the hatches was formerly a fish-pond.

The shop adjoining the Bridge occupies the site of a small malt-house, pulled down in 1879. Passing a long row of modern cottages, where it is supposed the "Swan" Inn, kept by James Noyce in 1756,[m] once stood, we come to the site of the Fire Engine House, of which there is another near the Court House at the upper end of the Town. Two engines were purchased by the Parish, and one was presented by the Royal Farmers' Insurance Company in 1864. The Street now widens into Church Street, and it is here that the Annual Fair is held on the 9th of September (formerly August 28th).[n] This institution is fast fading into oblivion. A narrow lane to the left leads into Hank, and thence into a field abutting on the River called Great Whiting Yard. The road was at one time by the back of the Mill and across the stream. In this field formerly stood numerous bleaching and calendering shops, watchmen's houses, and other buildings.

On the left side of the Fair Ground is a nice residence; this is the site of the old Pound and Jail, or Blind House, a small oblong building, demolished in 1860. The old oak door, with its padlock bolt, is still in the possession of Mr. Hannen. In the front of this Prison stood the whipping-post, removed in 1820; and the stocks. The pillory was also erected here. It was not, however, made use of after 1801.

That these punishments were needed is evident from the entries in the National Records. Thus, the Patent Rolls show that in the 5th year of Edward III., the Abbot of Beaulieu, who had a house at Ispeleye, had cause for complaint, upon which a Commission was issued to inquire concerning 15 or more persons named, living at Burgate, Forde, etc., who were alleged to have

ll.—Now an Iron Span Bridge. n.—Simpson's Agreeable Historian.
m.—Manor Survey, 1759.

broken the gates and doors of his dwelling-house, carried away his goods, assaulted his servants, imprisoned some of them, hanging some up by their feet, and keeping others without meat and drink until they were nearly dead. He alleged also that they had many times taken away his oxen, cows, sheep, and other animals feeding in the New Forest, and impounded them without cause, keeping them so long that very many of them died of hunger. The date of this Commission is 1331. On some occasions, even the Clergy were assaulted. Thus, in 1401, Bishop William of Wykeham issued a mandate to the Dean of Fordingbridge, and two of his Chaplains, to cite John Heldene and John Prins, carpenters, and William Noloth and Agnes Wolastone, all of Fordingbridge, on a charge of laying violent hands on William Gyfford, Chaplain of Fordingbridge. As regards the Church, in 1306, on the 14th Kal. September, Pope Clement V. issued from Bordeaux a dispensation to John de Monte Hermeri, Rector of Calhan, in the Diocese of Ossory, to hold Calhan, together with Fordingbridge in Diocese of Winchester, and on resigning either to accept another Benefice. The de Clares, Earls of Gloucester, held the presentation to Fordingbridge Church at the end of the 13th century, and beginning of the 14th century, and previously Richard de Clare had held it in 47 Henry III. The Rectory appears to have been more or less a sinecure, and held at times by lay persons. Thus, in 1372, in a decree dated from Avignon, the Pope gave a dispensation to Thomas, son of Ralfe, Earl of Stafford, Rector of Fordingbridge, D.C.L., to hold in addition a dignity or personatus with or without cure of souls, and to exchange the same as well as his Church, for two other compatible Benefices, the cure of souls being always provided for. The calendar of entries in the Papal Registers also showed that Edmund de Morteyn, D.C.L., was Rector of Fordingbridge in the year 1350. In that year the Pope granted him an indult to have a portable altar. Fordingbridge Church or Vicarage was held in the 14th century as follows:—In 1373, by Reginald Burel; patron, Thomas Stafford, the Rector. In 1383, by Nicholas Schirbourn; patron, Hugh, Earl of Stafford. In 1386, by John Welle; patrons, the representatives of the Earl of Stafford, who was then in parts remote. In 1387, by Richard de Clifford; patron, the King. In 1394, by Thomas de Feriby; patron, Anne, Countess of Stafford. The will of Nicholas Schirbourn, Vicar, is entered in Bishop Wykeham's Register, A.D. 1462. Richard Hill was presented to the Church by the King by reason of the minority of Henry Stafford, kinsman and heir of Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, as shown in the Patent Rolls. As regards the chief Manors, Henry Bruyn, Knight, 1st Edward IV., held Fordingbridge Manor and Rowner Manor, and these were long connected. Charles Bulkeley, Esq., held Nether Burgate Manor, and was Lord of Fordingbridge Hundred in 2 Richard III. There is a Bulkeley brass in the Church. The Patent Rolls,

1 Richard III., contain a long exemplification at the request of Thomas Brun, of "tenours," relating, *inter alia*, to his title through the Bruyn family to the Manors of Fordingbridge and Ruenore, in the County of Southampton. Burgate Manor, with the Hundred of Forde, was thus held separately from Fordingbridge; for example, there is a "grant as from Easter last by "way of surrender to William Lekhulle and Katherine his wife, "and the heirs of Katherine, who is the kinswoman and heir of "John de Ripariis and Matilda his wife, viz., daughter of "Edmund, son of John, their son, who has thus a hereditary "right therein of the Manor of Burgate, with the Hundred of "Ford, co. Southampton, held in chief late the possession of "Simon de Burley, knight, and seized into the King's hand "by reason of the judgment against him in Parliament of "2 Richard II." By fine levied in the King's Court in the year 14 Edward I., between John de Ripariis and Matilda his wife, plaintiffs, and Simon de Creye the Elder, the said Simon granted the same to the said John and Matilda and their heirs.—Cal. Patent Rolls, 14 Richard II., January 19, 1390.

The Hayward used to have the privilege of cutting grass from half-an-acre of land in Broad Mead, for the cattle impounded and not owned.

Nearly all the property on both sides of the Fair Ground is owned by C. R. P. Brune, Esq., the Lord of the Manor of Fordingbridge.

Chapter III.

The Church of St. Mary.

THE Church is of Decorated and Perpendicular Styles, and is somewhat remarkable in form, as it consists of a Nave with side Aisles, a small Transept in the North Aisle, and two Chancels. Over the Transept rises the square embattled Tower, of excellent proportions and workmanship, containing a Clock and eight Bells. We ascend the Tower by fifty-one steps to the Belfry, and by twenty-eight more we reach the summit. At the North-east corner is an embattled Turret. The remaining three corners were formerly disfigured by pinnacles of inferior design. The Tower is eighty feet in height, and is supported on four substantial arches, that on the North side forming a window. An extensive view is obtained from the Tower, and it is especially beautiful to the South, overlooking the fertile Valley of the Avon. To the West lies Dorsetshire; North-west, Wiltshire; to the North North-east, Breamore House; and East North-east, Hale House is distinguishable. The Belfry contains eight Bells. The tenor and treble Bells were purchased in 1857 (to replace a cracked tenor, and to complete the set of six). The former is named "John Reeves," and bears the following inscription:—"When I do toll, pray heart and soul; purchased by subscription; "C. Hatch, Vicar; John Hannen and J. Curtis, Churchwardens." The latter, named "Reginald Hannen," has the lines:—"When "I do ring, God's praises sing."

Two extracts from the local Papers will be found of much interest:—

The Church Bells.—An interesting ceremony was witnessed in Fordingbridge, on Friday, July 14th, 1899, when the Bells of St. Mary's Church were brought back to the Town, after undergoing renovation at the hands of Mr. T. Blackbourn, of the Friary Works, Salisbury. The Bells have been quarter turned and tuned, and fitted with a new frame. At the Church gates, the Hymn, "The Church's one foundation," was sung, and then the Vicar

conducted a short and simple, but impressive service of prayer. The Bells were formerly six in number, but two new ones—a treble and second—have been added. The complete peal has now been fixed in a cast-iron frame. The two new Bells bear the names of the Vicar and Churchwardens, and the founder, with the date, on the first being the text, "My soul doth magnify the Lord," and on the second, "And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." The inscriptions on the old Bells are very interesting, the lettering being very peculiar. Some of the letters are upside down, and others are very much out of line. The inscriptions are as follows: No. 3—"J. Warner & Sons Crescent Foundry London 1857. When I do ring, God's praises sing." No. 4—"Young men and mayds cast me. E * . R. B. * R. H. * * . Frances Forster 1655." No. 5—"Prayse ye the Lord. F. F. 1654." No. 6—"Francis Forster cast mee 1658." No. 7—"Fi (if I) with my feloes disagre then harken to our Ham mone." No. 8—"J. Warner & Sons Crescent Foundry 1857. When I do toll, pray heart and soul. Purchased by subscription. C. Hatch, Vicar. J. Hannen and J. Curtis C.W."

In connection with this ceremony, the following account of a similar ceremony, written by the late Mr. J. Reeves, in 1857, may be of interest:—

1857. Fordingbridge. Considerable excitement was observable in the Town on the 25th October, when the new tenor and treble Bells made their appearance. The scholars of Fordingbridge, Hale, and Hyde, had made ropes of acorns and berries, which were attached to the brazen preacher, whilst floral crowns were woven by the ladies. The flag floated from the Tower, and amid the strains of music and the voices of a large assemblage, the Bells, slowly drawn by the Parishioners, proceeded to the Church, where a platform had been erected, on which the Vicar, Curate and Churchwardens, awaited the arrival of Mrs. Brice, of Packham House. The Vicar made a short speech; the Wardens then handed her three ancient silver vessels, containing wine, oil and corn, and on pouring out the several contents on the Bells, she impressively pronounced, "Wine that maketh glad the heart of man; oil to make him a cheerful countenance; bread which strengtheneth man's heart." The Bells were then named John Reeves and Reginald Hannen, and a blessing asked on the undertaking. An Anthem from the Psalm CL. followed, and the Band gave a selection after hearty cheers were given for the Queen and others. The platform was then vacated, and the small Bell inverted, and twenty gallons of good old English ale and toast, at intervals, poured into it, which quickly disappeared, in moderation, amongst those assembled. The tenor Bell bears the inscription, "Purchased by subscription, 1857. C. Hatch, Vicar; J. Hannen and J. Curtis, Churchwardens. When I do toll, pray heart and soul." The treble, "When I do ring, God's praises sing." After 207 years' occupation of this Belfry, the old Bell came down slowly, solemnly, majestically. According to the average rate of mortality, 13,455 inhabitants of the Parish have gone to their rest since the Bell was placed in position in the time of Oliver Cromwell, but for the last 25 years it has been useless.

The Church was restored in 1841 and 1842, at a cost of £1,750.

Entering the Church by the Western door, we are at once struck by the excellent proportions of the sacred edifice; and approaching East, we observe that there are two Chancels—the South Chancel, or Chancel proper, and the North Chancel. It is asserted that the former is the most ancient part (though writers aver that the North Chancel is the oldest),[a] and belongs, probably, to the early part of the thirteenth century. The East

a.—See Kelly's Directory.

window consists of three high and somewhat narrow lights, separated by slender shafts of Purbeck marble, somewhat out of the perpendicular, terminating in Tudor arches. The old Reredos (unworthy of notice) has been removed; but on the North side is an Ambry.[b] The Piscina in the South wall is especially noteworthy. Four elegant lancet windows, ornamented with corbels, adorn the South Chancel; two of these are filled with stained glass, and are in memory of Major G. T. Brice, who died in 1862, and of his widow, who died in 1876. The first illustrates, by two scenes, the text, "And the lamb which is in the midst of them shall feed them;" the lower panel represents "The miracle of the loaves and fishes." The second window depicts three scenes from the life of our Lord—at the top, "The raising of Jairus' daughter;" the centre, "The woman of Samaria;" and the bottom, "The Marriage in Cana"—and is an excellent specimen of art. Between these two windows is the entrance to the robing room, where are two white marble memorials, one to George Towers,[c] who died in 1767, and which bears the following eulogy—

"Religion found in him an ample share,
"To serve his God his first and greatest care.
"In filial piety surpassed by none,
"A loving brother and a much-loved son.
"Virtuous from principle, in honour nice,
"An enemy to nothing but to vice.
"True to himself, to all that knew him dear,
"Liberal, yet just, tho' affable, sincere—
"Compassion and goodwill enlarged his mind,
"Friend to the poor and to the wretched kind."

May the same be said of our readers.

In the Chancel over the door is a mural tablet to Robert Thorpe Tarrant, who died in 1758; the epitaph is somewhat peculiar, especially the first lines. Over this is a smaller one, in memory of James William Lukin, of Sandhill Lodge. To the right, a large tablet, defaced by time, to Philip Clifford, who died in 1638. I give a copy of the inscription, and its translation, made for the Author:—

"Cygnea cantatio quam ante mortem in morbo Exspirarit
"Philippus Clifford sed post mortem, si placet, in pariete
"depingi voluit pro Epitaphio.

"O miserere, Deus, nostri, precor, O miserere,
"Peccavi fateor sed miserere mei.

b.—The Ambry is the distinctive mark of a Parish Church, and is always on the North side; it was the receptacle for holy oil and sacred vessels. The Piscina, for wine and water; it is easily distinguished by being on the South side and having a hole in it.

c.—See Tales of the Hundred of Ford.

"Peccavi fateor: Quis euim non peccat in isto
"Immundus mundo ne peream pereo.
"Sed venit in mundum Qui mundat sanguine Christus,
"Purgatus Christi sanguine puris eris.
"Ablue me multum multum ablue sanguine Christi,
"Isto purgatus sanguine mundus ero.
"Sique caro in terris peccanti sorde gravetur
"Spiritus in coelis psaltere gestit Amen.
"Amen, Domine Jesu.

"Obiit Jan. 28, Ao. Dome. 1638."

"Died January 28th, Anno Domini, 1638.

"The swanlike song which Philip Clifford breathed forth "before death, in his illness, but after death, if it please you, "he wished depicted on the wall as a Epitaph.

"Oh, have mercy, my God, oh, have mercy.
"I confess I have sinned, but have mercy on me;
"I confess I have sinned, for who has not in this world?
"Uncleansed I perish; do not let me perish.
"But Christ came into the world, who cleanses by (His) blood.
"Purged by the blood of Christ I shall be pure.
"Cleanse me much, much cleanse me in the blood of Christ;
"Purged by that blood, I shall be cleansed;
"And if the flesh be borne down into the earth by the filth of sin,
"The spirit is borne to heaven to sing Amen,
"Christ Jesus, Amen."

And a neat marble erected to the memory of Joah Fury, for 24 years Vicar of the Parish, who died in 1839, and whose remains rest underneath in the Vicarage vault, long since closed.

The front of the choir stalls are good specimens of the original scroll and ornamental carving. Some similar specimens have been used at the ends of the benches at the Western end of the Church.

The South side of the North Chancel is laid open by three spacious arches of the Decorated style,[c] supported by two elegant pillars; and upon examination, it will be observed that the floor of the North Chancel was formerly some 18 inches higher than at present, or level with the raised (original) space within the rails.

c.—Bevan's Hampshire.

The most interesting portion of the North Chancel is a rare and excellent specimen of a carved oak or chestnut roof. The Chapel is of the early Perpendicular style, attributed to the 14th, or early part of the 15th century. The four beams of the roof are supported by eight full-length figures, about four feet high, of prophets and kings, projecting horizontally. The centres of the beams, and also the purlin joints, are ornamented with clusters of flowers, admirably carved. The centre beam bears the representation of the head of the Almighty, enveloped in curls or clouds, the design and execution imparting a dignified and benevolent expression. Since the 1903 restoration, this Chancel has been used as a side Chapel.

Photo. by] ST. MARY'S CHURCH. [LOCK.

The large stained glass window, inserted in 1842, is of curious design, enclosed by an arch rising almost to the roof. It contains five lights, surmounted by the heads of two pointed arches. Above these, a circle, with four small quatrefoil windows, and in the centre the dove descending. The interstices are filled with various coloured glass. To the right of this window is a beautiful Piscina, of 13th century work.

On the North wall, which contains three windows with double lights, crowned with a trefoil, is a slate tablet to the memory of Isaac Mallortic, who died in 1779, and a white marble to John Howes, 41 years Vicar of the Parish, and who died in 1815.

The North-west corner of the Chancel, where recently stood the old Organ (opened with a special choral service in 1826), was formerly occupied by an old-fashioned seat, known as the Fryern Court Gallery, to which one ascended by a flight of steps, whilst the North-east part of the Chancel was used as a store for ladders, etc. The paupers and school children occupied raised benches in front, similar to the seats of a theatre, between the last two pillars towards the Nave, where was formerly the Pargeter Gallery.

The new Organ was erected by J. W. Walker & Sons, of London, in 1887, at a cost of £490 (the old Organ was erected on March 16th, 1826), and opened by Dr. Arnold, of Winchester, on September 29th of that year, at a morning dedicatory service, an organ recital being subsequently given, and other special services held on this auspicious day. The instrument is fitted with two manuals of 56 notes each, and a pedal organ of 30 notes, and contains 14 stops and 3 couplers, with 748 pipes, the largest being of 16ft. tone.

Prior to 1879, the Church possessed a fine carved oak reading desk, of gothic design, surmounted by a substantial antique pulpit of good proportions.

The pulpit formerly stood by the second pillar on the South side of the Nave. At that time there was a passage in the front of it, and the pulpit's present position was occupied by the high Packham Gallery of the Brice family, approached by a very handsome winding staircase. The modern oak lectern was presented in memory of William Joseph Gale, who was assassinated near Nazareth in 1877.

Modern stalls replace the "Churchwardens' Pew," and two others, which were at right angles to the present seats.

Slight vestiges lead us to suppose that there may have been an oak screen before the Chancel.

Opposite to the reading desk, where the lectern now stands, was the large faculty pew of the Coventry family—formerly two seats divided from each other by curtains—and underneath, the family vault. On the East wall is a very fine brass. The design consists of an arch, within which, and in the spandrels, are three coats of family arms. Along the soffit we read, "Iesus Nazarinus, Rex Iudiorum Filii Dei, miserere nostri." Beneath, on the left, is represented Mr. Bulkeley and his three sons, with their initials over the head of each. On the right is Mrs. Bulkeley, with her five daughters. All are kneeling. From the squire proceeds, "Deus miseriatur nri," to whom his lady makes reply, "Et benedicat nobis." Between the figures, the date, "1568," and

"Iesus our Ioy and our Delygth in Thee O Christ make us pligth" (i.e., established). The epitaph is as follows:—

"Here under lyeth buryed ye bodyes of Willim Bulkeley,
"Esquer, and Jane, his wiffe, dawghter of Baron luke of
"ye Quenes Highnes Exchequier, who had betwen them
"III sones (Charles & Willim), whose bodyes lyeth here
"buryed, and John; and V dawghters, An, Joyse, Iudyth,
"Susan, and Cusely, whom Iesus Christ have mcy and
"grant them eternall joi."

On the next pillar, to the left, are two white marble tablets: To John Bulkeley Coventry Bulkeley, who died in 1801. And to Dame Anne Bulkeley, who died at the age of 103, and to her children; the date is 1774.

The Nave opens to the Aisles, on either side, by four arches, supported by circular stone pillars. Above these, on the North side, are three cleristory windows, of the Perpendicular period; and on the South side, four, of double lights.

The South Aisle terminates to the East, with a large square window. Underneath, is a small, but very beautiful, gothic piscina; and during the 1903 restoration, remains of a stone altar were discovered under this window, indicating that it had once been a side Chapel. Near, was a board, bearing the description of the new tenor and treble bells, their reception, and the date of their purchase (1857). In this Aisle is a very fine white marble, on black marble plinth, erected to the memory of Major-General Andrew Hay, who fell in action in 1814; the tablet is surrounded by carved trophies, whilst at the base is represented a camp. Formerly there was a Gallery here, known as the Bickton Gallery.

The North Aisle possesses a finely carved Royal Arms; the execution is bold and masterly. It is now affixed over the North entrance, but formerly occupied a position on the wall separating the Nave and Chancel. When it was moved, many years ago, a figure of Death, in coloured plaster, was discovered hidden behind it, but it was so hideous that it was concealed from view. The Nave was also ornamented with texts, in garters, in relief, and illuminated.

The windows of both Aisles are double-light windows, with quatrefoil tops, of the early decorated period. That in the North arch, supporting the Tower, has three lights with peculiarly shaped trefoil heads. It appears to us as if the Nave and Aisles had been built after the erection of the Tower; the two arches on the South side, the South-west pillar of the Tower, and the very apparent addition of the North Aisle, all seem to favour this theory. It has even been suggested that the North Chancel and

the Tower once comprised the Church, and that the South Chancel, Nave and Aisles were afterwards added (see Bevan's Hampshire).

The entrance to the Tower was formerly* by a door on the right of the arch window mentioned above; and on the left was the staircase, removed in 1884, leading to the Vestry and Gallery. Under the arches of the Tower was the old Sandhill Gallery, enlarged in 1841 to form the Organ Loft and Choir Gallery, which was removed in 1884. Previous to this, the Bells were rung from this part of the Church. The following stanza, which we copy for the edification of our readers, mutely taught the congregation and the ringers theology and campanology:—

"As it is not good to see men wrangle,
"So it is not good to hear bells jangle;
"For there is no musick played nor sung,
"May be compared to bells well rung."

In 1826, the Organ occupied the Western Gallery,[d] which was afterwards enlarged. Before the restoration of 1842, the centre part of the West Gallery was space. From the North side of the old South Gallery, projected, facing North, the Singing Gallery, painted blue; and from this commanding position was hung the primitive slate, bearing the number of the psalm or chant about to be sung, a custom which still prevails in the Churches of the Netherlands. At this period, various instruments of music were used by the choir, such as the clarionet, flute, bassoon and bass viol. Looking towards the Chancel, we observe the substantial beams of the roof of the Nave—that nearest the Chancel bears traces of decoration. It was supposed that the roof here was probably equally valuable with that of the North Chancel, and with the prospect of such discovery, the handsome groined ceiling was removed in 1841.

We must not omit to mention the fine West Window, best seen from the South Chancel. At sunset it is most beautiful and striking, and, like the major portion of the sacred edifice, "is executed in the very best period of the art, and worthy to be "considered an excellent feature in any Church throughout the "kingdom. Over a row of five arched lights extends a transom, "and above this another similar row; these again are surmounted "by a row of four lights of somewhat smaller dimensions. The "whole is crowned by three arches of small height. Thus there "are seventeen distinct and beautiful lights, with trefoil heads "and spandrels, included in an arch of noble proportions, "producing an excellent effect."[c] On either side are two excellent double-light windows, with quatrefoil heads.

*Again opened in 1903.

c.—Topographical Remarks by Rev. P. Hall. d.—See page 48.

On the North are two marble tablets of the Turner family, 1806; and similar one on the South side.

The rare Norman Font was removed from the Church in 1841, and for some years stood in the Vicarage Garden, but it has now, happily, been restored to the Church.

The portion of the Church underneath the one time Western Gallery, was formerly approached from the Nave by a flight of several steps, so that the entrance by the West door was by two steps up, instead of as at present. On the North side of the West door, is the vault of the Seton family, formerly of Brookheath; and over the vault was their old-fashioned square pew, rendered private by curtains.

The South door is rarely opened.

There were also Galleries, beside those already described, under the arches separating the Nave and North Aisle. Formerly the sittings numbered 750, but were increased at the restoration to 1842, of which only 200 were free.

Over the North Porch is the Vestry Room; and in the Porch it is recorded that, in 1801, Catherine Eycott Bulkley gave £200 three per cent. consols in trust, the dividends of which were to be applied to the use of the Sunday School. In 1848, Miss King bequeathed £50 for the same purpose; and John Doddington, of Breamore House, gave, in 1638, a rent-charge of £5, payable to Fordingbridge, Breamore, Harbridge and Ibsley, alternately.[a]

On the West of the North Porch is a good holy-water stoup; and at the West door, another, or rather, a portion of an original, with modern restoration, and square-sided recess on the right hand. It may be noticed here that the Churchyard is several feet above the level of the road.

On the Tower, nearly over the South Porch, is a 12-hour sundial, with the initials of J. H.[b] and J. C.,[b] 1856. On the East and North sides of the Tower are also sun-dials, the former giving the hours 4 to 11 a.m., and the latter 4 to 9 p.m.

The cross on the South Chancel is a recent addition, though there is little doubt but that both Chancels were formerly decorated with crosses. In the outside of the North wall of the North Chancel is an arched recess, or tomb, embellished with a defaced coat of arms, believed to be the founder's tomb; whilst over it are curious marks, as if worn by (pilgrim's ?) fingers.

a.—Lewis' Topographical Dictionary.
b.—John Hannen, James Curtis.

The walls are built mostly of flints and small stones, stuccoed, on foundations of iron or sandstone, and Purbeck stone.

We cannot but think there must have been an earlier Church of the Norman period, to which, possibly, the foundations, and even the Tower, belong, and this view is rather strengthened by the possession of the Norman Font before referred to.

The Church possesses an excellent service of Communion Plate, the gift of John Brymer, Esq., for some time resident a Burgate House.

The numerous epitaphs upon the tombstones are very quaint, but to repeat them would take too much space; we therefore content ourselves with one specimen:—

"God takes the good, too good on earth to stay,
"And leaves the bad, too bad to take away."
Aged 82.

The North Porch is approached by a fine avenue of twelve lime trees—possibly in reference to the twelve Apostles; there are also two very old yew trees, trimmed into the shape of a sugar loaf.

The Church Registers date from 1616.

For the guidance of those who favour the Eastward position, we may mention that the Church does not stand East and West, but East by South (¼ South), and West by North (¼ North, true).

EXTRACTS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS' BOOKS.

1536—Itm for a fox head	o	i	o	
Itm for a badger's head		i	o	
Itm to ye Ringers on ye King's daye		ij	vj	
Item for one belroape		is	ivd	
1616—It for viiiij dayes work for 3 men ...		xxiijs		
It for a new beel rope		iijs	iijd	
It for a book of artykeels ...		iijs		

An Inventory made the third month after the termination of the 2nd year of the reign of Edward VI., is among the Records late of the Queen's Remembrancer, at Carlton Ride. The following is a copy of it:—

"The Inventary of all the Plate, Juelles, Vestments and "Ornaments, belonging to the Church of Fordingbridge, in the "County of South, taken and made according unto the "commandement from Mr. Wilm Kalewaye and Mr. John "Ogden, Esquires, and other Commissioners to our Soveren "Lorde Edwarde the VI., by the grace of God, of England, France "and Irelonde, Kyng defender of the Faythe, and in ertho of the "Churches of England and Irelond, immediately under God "supreme hed the iijd by certen of the said Parishe whose "namys and seales be put herto the xxij daye of Aprill, the yer "above written.

"In primis iij chalices of Silver whereof oon is parcell gylb.

"Item i cross of Silver.

"Item ij pyxes of Silver whereof oon is parcell gylb.

"Item j censer of Silver witht a yern clipper that serve for "the time of Communion.

"Item j censer of Silver.

"Item oon Ship of Silver.

"Item j pax of Silver and gylt and oon cup of Silver.

"Item iij belles. The great belle is iij fote and viij ynches "brode and ij fote and ix ynches depe. The middill belle is "iij fote and iij ynches brode and ij fote and vi ynches depe. "The littelle belle is iij fote brode and ij fote and iij ynches "depe and serveth the clock.

"Item the best Vestment is crymsyn velvett.

"Item j sute of Vestments, viz., for the Prest, deacon and "subdeacon, the ground thereof is changeable braunched with "grene.

"Item j grene Vestment groundid with black velvett.

"Item j other Vestment called the checker, whyyte and red.

"Item j other Vestment of grene sylk and blew threde.

"Item j other Vestment of old red velvett.

"Item j Vestment of black damask with a wight satten crosse.

"Item j sute of Vestments for the prest, deacon and sub-"deacon, with a cope to the same of black worstede.

"Item j wight damask cope.

"Item j other cope of blew sylk.

"Item ij other copes, oon of red cafha, the other of change-"able red and grene.

"Item iiij corporas cases, jj of cloth of gowlde, the iijde blew, "the iiij clothe of tnsill.

"Item viij Altar clothes.

"Item i frunt for the hygh Altar of yelow satten of bridges.

"Item j frunt for the Altar in the north yle of black and "whyght satten of bridges.

"Item iij other frunts, ij paynted, the other blew and grene "buckeram.

"Item j crosses of coper and gylb.

"Item a Sepulcur clothe of yelour and blew.

"Item iij stremers of sylk.

"Item iiiij banner clothes, whereof i is red sylk the other iiij "be stayned clothes.

"Item ij syrplices for the prestes and ii for ye clarkes.

"Item j paule of red and blew sylke and i other olde.

"Item iiij shetes.

"Item iij basens and viii candylstyckes of laten.

"(L.S.) (L.S.)

"Wlm. Keylewey. John Okeden."

The above unique and rare inventory was given to the Author, by the late Rev. R. P. Warren, of Ibsley, afterwards Vicar of Hyde, near Fordingbridge.

Extract from the local Paper, respecting the restoration of the Church, 1902-3:—

FORDINGBRIDGE.—On Tuesday last, the ancient Parish Church, which for nearly two years has been undergoing extensive alterations and restoration, was re-opened for Divine Service by Bishop Webb, Dean of Salisbury, the numerous engagements of the Bishop of Winchester rendering it impossible for him to come and perform the ceremony. The Church, as restored, is of imposing appearance and of fine proportions, and is now probably one of the finest Churches in the Diocese. That over eight centuries have passed since a Church first stood on the site occupied by the present one, is proved by the fact that it is mentioned in Domesday Book. During the present work of restoration, there have been discovered portions of a doorway and of a window of Norman work, which supplement the only fragment of this period previously visible—a carved stone in the South Aisle. Before the present works were begun, the Church consisted of a Chancel, a North Chancel, and a Vestry on the South, a Nave of four bays with North and South Porches, and a Tower erected inside the western bay of the North Aisle—no doubt because there was

no room between the Nave and the road on the West. There has now been added a Choir Vestry, opening out from the South Aisle. The Church appears to have been entirely rebuilt during the first quarter of the 13th century, almost on its present plan, the difference being that the North Chapel was only part of its present length, it having been extended to the full length of the Chancel some forty years later; and the Tower and porches did not then exist. Alterations were made in the 14th century, an East Window being inserted in the Chapel, and the present fine roof—almost a copy of the one of the Nave at Bere Regis—being put on. Towards the end of that century, there was a remodelling of the Nave, including the West Window, Roof, and Clerestory; and the East and West Windows and a South Window in the Aisle were inserted. In the 15th century, the South Aisle was rebuilt to a greater width, and the Tower was built, as well as the North Porch, with the room over it. The roof of the Nave, together with the gables, had at some later period been altered by lowering the pitch of the upper half, thus giving it a curious truncated appearance. Apart from this, the different parts of the Church had retained the old roofs, although in the case of the Chancel the roof had become so dilapidated that little of it could be retained. But neglect and the ravages of time, combined with a defective foundation, had brought the fabric into a dangerous condition, when, in December, 1899, the Vicar (Rev. W. J. Boys), and the Churchwardens at that time (the late Mr. W. F. Alexander, and Mr. E. E. Lonnen), called in Mr. C. E. Ponting, F.S.A., of Marlborough, to inspect it, and advise what was necessary to be done to preserve the Church.

In 1841, a restoration of the interior had been carried out, which included a renewal of the fittings. The pews then put in had terminals of cast-iron. A Gallery, 17ft. deep, was erected in the West end, the pillars and walls being ruthlessly cut away to support and to give access to it. A heating apparatus had been erected outside the Chancel, which admitted its warmed air through the "low-side" window, one of the most interesting features of the Church.

A new pulpit and choir stalls have been made by the builder from the architect's designs, and new wrought-iron standards and a brass rail for the Sanctuary step have been provided. The spaces under the seats have been repaved with wood blocks laid on a bed of concrete, and the Chancel has been repaved with stone of two colours, with marble for the floor and steps of the Sanctuary. The Purbeck marble Font, which was in the Churchyard, has been restored to its proper place and use. An old entrance to the Belfry inside the Church has been re-opened, and the one recently in use outside the Church has been built up. An interesting feature of the Church is an altar tomb recessed in the outside of the North Chancel wall (an unusual position), which is scored with grooves made by the sharpening of spears during the Civil War. The North Chancel is now seated with chairs, and a table occupies the place of the former altar. This will be used for week-day services, and on occasions when there is likely to be a small congregation. The total cost of the work detailed above amounts to £3,450, and of this considerable sum there remains £400 to be raised. The cost in the case of the Chancel has been borne by King's College, and amounts to £450.

Chapter IV.

THE TOWN (Continued).

LEAVING the Churchyard by the western gate, we emerge upon the street, opposite the Vicarage, a comfortable and well-built house, erected in 1817, having extensive gardens in the rear.

The Living or Vicarage is valued in the King's Book at £30 2s. 8½d., and now at £672 5s. The Rectorial Tithes, which belong to King's College, Cambridge, were commuted in 1840 (wheat being 28/- a sack) for £1,250. The Curacy of Ibsley is presented with the living of Fordingbridge, both being in the gift of the Provost and Fellows of the above College. We may note in passing that the King's Book, i.e., of Henry VIII., was the registered valuation of the incumbencies of this country. From an early period, Clergymen have been required to pay the amount of the income of the first year of the incumbency into a fund called "First Fruits," and every succeeding year one-tenth of their incomes into a fund called "Tenths." These First Fruits and Tenths were collected certainly as early as 1290, when Pope Nicholas IV. caused a valuation to be made, which record is still preserved. In Henry VIII.'s reign, the fund was applied to the use of the State. This continued to the reign of Queen Anne, when the fund was called "Queen Anne's Bounty," and was used to augment poor livings; but the valuations of the "liber regis" still continued to remain as the value upon which these payments were calculated. They may be paid in four annual instalments; but some small livings are exempt.

There are ten acres of Glebe belonging to the Vicarage; and 5a. 1r. 6p., known as Church Lands, in 1885 let for £11 10s. per annum, the income being applied to the expenses of the maintenance of the Church.

The following list shows the years that the Vicars named entered upon their duties:—

John Hall,	1675 to 1699.	William Barford,	1768.
John Horswell,	1702.	John Howes,	1774.
No record	1719 to 1725.	Joah Fury,	1816.
George Doughty,	1725 to 1731.	Charles Hatch,	1840.
No record	1732 to 1748.	William J. Boys,	1879.
George Towers,	1749 to 1767.		

Following the road, on the left we observe several new houses and cottages, which have replaced the hovels formerly standing by the roadside. An old house, now somewhat modernized, is said to have been the Vicarage before the present one was built. A little further on, the double-gabled building facing us, built in 1871, was used for a Cottage Hospital, which proved an invaluable boon to the poor; but in 1879 the management passed into new hands, and in 1880 the Hospital was closed. Considerable alterations have since been effected, and the residence is now known as "The Glen." To the left of this stood a picturesque cottage, bearing the date 1703; and at the back is the Town ditch, and a small field which was once a wood.

Retracing our steps past the Vicarage, we come to "Chopstyle," where a footpath to the left leads, beside the stream, to Ashford and Boward. The houses at this corner replace some of the very worst description of cottages.

Opposite the Engine House site stood a gabled house, with stone corbels to the upper windows—this was the "Black Boy" Inn. The house at that time comprised what was later known as "Black Boy" Alley, and was, perhaps, the best (or worst) specimen of what the old Town was in the manufacturing period, when the street from this point to Dyer's Bridge was occupied by many buildings where calico printing was carried on, principally where "The Quadrant" now stands.

Crossing Dyer's Bridge, built in 1840,[a] where previously there was a Bridge only for pedestrians, we observe on the left the Wesleyan Chapel, built in 1836, and enlarged in 1882 to accommodate two hundred and fifty persons. There are also spacious School and Class Rooms at the rear. The first place of meeting used by the Wesleyans was the long building, afterwards the "Royal Arms" stables, but now pulled down.

a.—Now an Iron Bridge of one span.

Adjoining the Burial Ground stands a house, which was once well known as the "Half Moon" Inn. It bears a date as follows: 1696 / Is. M. Old cottages near present a specimen of last century dwellings for the poor. The field opposite, known as "Hull," was formerly the site of numerous weaving shops and cottages.

The lane to the left leads to the extensive orchards of Mr. W. T. Chubb. Passing by more old cottages, we cross another stream by Copper Bridge, more commonly known as Tanyard Bridge, built about 1843. From this point an interesting view of the lower part of the Town is obtained.

On the left is the site of the Town Tanyard of Messrs. Rawlence, which was given up in 1838, though a little tanning was done here until 1863 by John Dorrington. The skin dressing house, and drying loft over, immediately adjoined the Bridge, and was for some time used as a warping shop. To the rear is seen the extensive Steam Canvas Factory of Messrs. Thompson and Co. This is unfortunately closed, though a portion is used as a Laundry.

On the right are situated the Gas Works, which were commenced in 1866, Holmes, of Huddersfield, being the contracting engineer; and gas was used for general illumination in October, 1867. In 1882 and 1883, the second gasholder was erected by Willey & Co., of Exeter. It contains about six thousand cubic feet of gas; and its tank, which is of cast-iron, will contain forty-two thousand gallons, or one hundred and eighty-nine tons of water. The "Benches" consisted of six iron retorts, but clay ones are now substituted. More land has lately been purchased, and another holder erected in 1904, of a capacity of 20,000 cubic feet, with a steel water tank. In 1905, a new retort house was built, containing two beds of four retorts on the regenerating principle, and two beds direct firing. The old retort house is now the engine house.

In 1886, the Company bored for pure water. The chalk was reached at 212 feet, but the flow of water being very small, the pipes were withdrawn to 104 feet, whence a good supply is obtained.

There are fifty public lamps, including those on the Station Road.

Adjoining the Gas Company's Office was a cottage, the site many years ago of an ale-house, called the "Royal Oak." The corner where a shop has been erected was known as "Dyer's

Corner." This portion of the Town has been very much improved since 1882.

A few paces distant stands the County Police Station, a well-built house, erected in 1859. There is accommodation for twelve prisoners.

A house opposite, of rather Gothic design, is known as "Townsend." It replaces a very picturesque building, pulled down in 1886.

The road leads to the Railway Station, about half-a-mile distant. Ashford and the Station Road has now become an important suburb.

Retracing our steps, and keeping to the left, we pass Railway Terrace; and, further on, Nyanza Terrace, built in 1877. The small stream which here runs along the edge of the field, formerly had its channel in the street; but as it was a constant danger, in 1878, the Highway Board, with the consent of the Lord of the Manor, diverted the stream to its present course, and widened the road, at a cost of £300 per acre for the land.

We now approach "Little Bridge," built by Mr. Reeves, who was Waywarden in 1836. Prior to this, there was only a foot-bridge here. Adjoining, on the right, is the garden of the former Union House. The field opposite was formerly a bleaching yard, and there was also a watch-house. The Mill near is known as Coles' Mill, though it was commonly called "Tucking Mill," or "Moxham's Mill." The building has been much altered, and considerable improvements effected since 1881.

The National Schools, built in 1835, occupies a commanding position at the corner. The red brick addition, erected in 1880, may be said to be more useful than ornamental. At the present time, 350 children attend the Schools.

At the rear of the National Schools is the new Union Workhouse, built in 1887. The land, 4½ acres, was purchased at a cost of £1,490, less four cottages and nearly an acre of land, sold for £345. The handsome buildings of red brick, for the accommodation of ninety paupers, together with the Schools, cost £7,800. The capital striking clock, in the tower, was the gift of the late Sir Edward Hulse, Bart.

The corner, near the National Schools, together with Shaftesbury Street, was, probably, the lowest and foulest portion of the Town—the tenements barely habitable, and the occupiers the "scum" of the parish—indeed, the spot was commonly known as "Hell Corner." The greater part of one side of Shaftesbury Street

is occupied by what was, until 1887, the Union House. The old Workhouse, established in 16—, was partially destroyed by fire about 1830; but in 1835, the second Union House was completed, the buildings which now face the street being erected on the site of the old Workhouse yard, around which were the various stores for wood, and other commodities, which were retailed to the poor on Saturdays. Soup was also sometimes distributed on these occasions. These premises are now in private hands, the board-room having become "The Auction Mart."

The three new houses, on the opposite side of the street, occupy the site of six miserable old cottages, which were demolished in 1864.

Opposite the old "New" Inn, by the chimney of the cottage which formed part of the old "Royal Arms" Inn, stood, until 1860, the stocks. The cottage was a baker's shop.

Shaftesbury Street has been greatly improved since 1864. Before this date it was quite a slum, consisting of miserable hovels, covered with thatch. There was, however, a draper's shop; but this, together with the rest of the houses, has been replaced by comfortable dwellings.

Wesley is said to have lived in Shaftesbury Street; it is certain he preached here.

Nathaniel Highmore, an English Anatomist, was born in this Town. He wrote "Corporis humano disquisitio Anatomicœ," and other medical works. The cavity called the *"Antrum Highmorianum,"* in the superior maxilla, takes it name from him.

Born 1613. Died 1684.[a] Reign of Charles II.

The following extracts are from the Parish Books, and are interesting, as showing the customs of the time when the entries were made:—

Vestry Meeting, April 18th, 1775.

We, the undersigned, do agree, with John Eastman, to take care of the poor of this parish for 1s. 9d. per head per week, he to find them in wholesome diet, drink, washing, soap, candle, mending, and all articles except clothing and firing, the said J. E. to have all their earnings.

John Howes, Vicar.
Frs. Blachford
Danl. Brixey
J. Moxham
Vincent Wing
Joshua Gould
George Rawlence
} John Eastman.

a.—Maunder's Biographical Treasury.

	£	s.	d.
1774—To Constable for carriage and expences to Winchester for a Vagrant	1	2	0
1783—September 29th, Paid to encourage the Spinners	0	13	10
This entry occurs frequently in the books.			
1784—April 5th, To Mr. Alexander Neave, bill for flour	181	10	5
November 29th, To thatching Workhouse	0	5	9
1785—February 28th, To post letter	0	0	4½
April 12th, To lbs. pork, at 6½d. per lb.			
„ „ lard, at 5d. „			
1786—January 2nd, Paid W. Barry, County money	28	15	2
March 9th, Paid the expence of marriage of John Gough and Hanª Hewlett	3	9	2
October 12th, By cash for 54 poor, 1 week, and his necessity and going to small pox house	4	17	8
1787—January 3rd, To swearing and marrying Joseph Head and Collins	5	17	1½
September 4th, To W. Collins' wife, for tending yᵉ small pox	1	12	0
1786—1787—Balance Sheet...Dr. £965 10s. 2d....Cr.	999	11	5
1791—February 7th, Paid the Governor ½-year's Salary	12	0	0
July 4th, Paid 5s. for 1 Sack of Potatoes			
„ 3s. 6d. for 1 Sack of Potatoes			
1792—January 2nd, Paid Mark Freaker, ½-year's shaving	2	18	6
February 6th, Paid expences for W. Mist, at Blissford, in yᵉ small pox house	1	3	4
June 4th, To Dr. Collins, for inoculation	2	12	6
1793—March 4th, Paid Barry, yᵉ Constable, for conveying yᵉ sᵈ Cleaveland to Bridewell	2	0	11

1812—R. H. Cox, of Christchurch, was engaged to teach the children in the Workhouse the art of making watch chains.

1820—Bought a new fire engine.

1825—Agreed to erect organ gallery at west end of Church from plans of Ambrose Witt.

This was done the following year.

Extract from the Parish Register of Enford, near Marlborough:—

"April 5, 1663. Gave to the briefe of Fordingbridge, two "shillings and seaven pents."

Certified by G. A. Crossle, Vicar.

Extract from Parish Register of Hadstock, Essex:—

"July 25, 1703. Collected for Fordingbridge, which had "sustained £5,059 19s. 0d., loss by Fire—1s. 6½d."

NOTE.—Considering the value of money in 1703, this must have been an enormous fire, involving the destruction of the whole place. There are houses in High Street and Back Street which bear in their walls an earlier date, and so must have escaped the general conflagration. The Church also clearly escaped.

W. J. BOYS,
Vicar of Fordingbridge.

Chapter V.

A few Remarks upon the Neighbourhood of Fordingbridge.

THERE are so many interesting places within easy walking distance of Fordingbridge, that we feel we cannot omit a short description of the surrounding country, and places of interest.

Of the following, "Byketon, Ibbesley, Styketon, and Ellingham, are townes not within the Forest, nor within its area;"[a] but "Godshill, Criddlestowe, Burgate, Forde, Woodfidley Rectory, and Ibbesley, are Manors, on the West side of the Forest, and claiming privileges therein."[a]

Leaving the Town by the Salisbury Road, we pass the recently developed New Road Estate.

A mile to the North lies the hamlet of Burgate. It is a Manor, and is described in Doomsday Book as follows—"Borgate: King Edward held one hide of land; therein is a mill, value (i.e., rent) ten shillings and one thousand eels. In this Manor is a wood, in the Forest of the King, and seven pastures, to maintain forty pigs, and paying ten shillings." Also the dogs of this Manor were allowed to go "unlawed." Burgate was subject to Beaulieu Abbey.[a] The mill was occupied until 1815, when it was pulled down, Josiah Jerrard being the last tenant.

The present cross is said to stand on the base of an ancient village cross,[b] but we have been unable to find any evidence to support this statement. Also, it is said to have been one of the

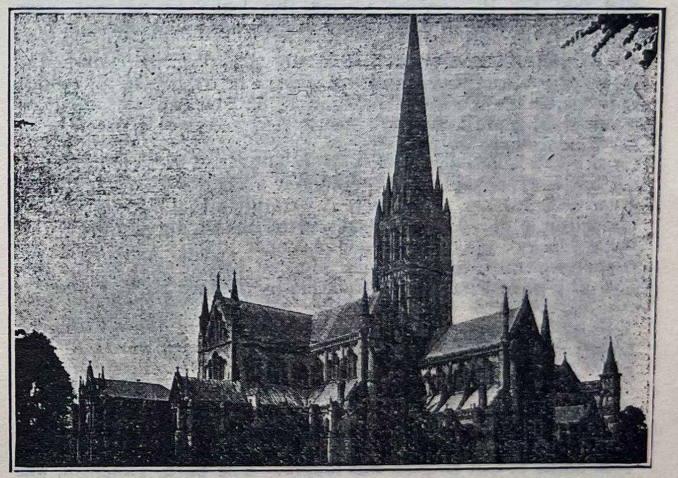
a.—Historical Inquiries concering Forests and particulars of the New Forest, by P. Lewis, 1811

b.—Wise's New Forest.

boundaries of Cranborne Chase; and as Bradley in his "Round about Wiltshire" says, "12,000 deer ranged the Chase, the South end of which nearly touched Fordingbridge," there must have been a continuous deer walk from the Solent to Longleat.

At Burgate Weir is one of the small pieces of land, known as "The Locks."

John Taylor, the water poet, born 1580, flourished in the reign of Elizabeth and James I. In 1624, he wrote a pamphlet—"Voyage by Sea: London to Salisbury." He went to Christchurch by sea, and took his wherry and five men, and from



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.

thence they rowed to Salisbury in one day. He mentions that he saw 2,000 swans. He calls Fordingbridge "Forthing Bridge," and relates that, a few days before his arrival, "two men were swimming near the Bridge, when a butcher, passing over the Bridge with a mastiffe dogge, threw a stone into the water, saying, 'A ducke,' whereupon the dog jumped and seized one of the men and killed him; the butcher followed to save the man, and was also killed by his dogge."

In 1672, James Healy wrote a pamphlet, borrowed from Taylor's Voyage and suggestions, advocating as Taylor had

done—making the River Avon navigable from Christchurch to Salisbury. A subscription was raised for this purpose, and Bishop Ward gave both time and money to making the River navigable.

Dr. Pope, in the "Salisbury Ballad," says of that Prelate—
"'Twas you brought their vessels to Harnham!"

In 1675, another pamphlet appeared, stating the advantages that had been derived by opening the River.

In 1753, Francis Price referred to the barges and locks on the River, but states that the navigation scheme had fallen through, and that Sir R. Jervoise turned the locks to account near Salisbury, for irrigating the meadows (see also page 20).

The difficulty of approach from the Sea to Christchurch, the long bends of the River, and the system of irrigation, all tended to break up the scheme of navigation, and in 1836 this mode of transit had quite fallen into disuse.—*Prolusiones Historicæ, by the Rev. Edward Duke.*

Charles II. is said to have granted a charter to navigate the Avon to Salisbury. And there is a tradition that the stone of the Cathedral of that City was transported thither by barges—if so, these "locks" may have been practical locks. They were the property of Sir George Jervoise, but we believe that at Burgate and other places has been purchased by the late Sir E. Hulse.

Burgate House is the pleasant residence of John Coventry, Esq.—*(See "Two Roses," Tales of the Hundred of Ford).*

Breamore, Bromere, Bremmore, or Braemore—Breagh-mor, meaning "great palace"—two miles beyond Burgate, is a "manorial liberty," Sir E. Hulse being the present Lord of the Manor. It was between Breagh-mor and Witsbury that Arthur's 11th battle of Cat Brigion was fought. The bard, Taliensin, was born at Breamore Marsh; afterwards he lived at Cearionpool, or the Shrubbery Pool, between Witsbury and Breagh-mor.[bb] Breamore is said to have received its name from an early Scottish owner, who pronounced this part of the valley a "Brae Moor;" be this as it may, it is mentioned in Doomsday Book as Bromore and Brumore, and it is there recorded that "In this Manor (is) one hide of land in Insula de With which Gleani holds." About the reign of Henry I., Baldwin Riveriis, and Hugh, his uncle, founded here an Augustine Priory of Black Canons, of which monastery St. Michael was the tutelary Saint. At the "suppression," there was a Prior and nine Canons, and an

bb.—Argyle.

endowment of the value of £154 14s. 1d. per annum. The site, and most of its possessions, were granted by Henry VIII. to Henry, Marquis of Exeter; later, Earl Warwick was patron.[c] A field near the Mill is still called Priory Mead, in which a stone sarcophagus has been found.[cc] Breamore Priory is said to have been the place whence the assassins of Thomas à Becket, at the instigation of Henry, who was staying here, set out on their errand.[d] The living is donative. The Church of St. Mary, which has been recently recognized as Saxon, was described in the "Builder," of October 20th, 1900, as one of the largest and most complete pre-Conquest buildings of the country. It consists of Nave, with indications of some West adjunct, Chancel, South Transept, and South Porch, which is a later addition. The fabric is of flint rubble. Inside the late Norman Porch, on what was formerly the outer wall of the Church, is a representation of the Crucifixion, of great antiquity, built into the wall, the colouring, still plainly visible, being of a later period. The edifice was restored in 1897, and this work disclosed some most interesting Saxon remains, both in the interior and externally. The principal of these was an arch leading into the South transept, which bears a Saxon inscription, which may be given in Roman characters, as follows:—

"HER SWNTELATH SEO GEC WYDVAENS THE."

The inscription contains two Runic letters, showing that at this time in Wessex the Runic letters, which came from the North, were blended into Southern Anglo-Saxon as well as Norman. The inscription was unique in this County, and indeed in England. It might be read as—"Here is manifested God's covenant to the" (thee). Wise, quoting from Doomsday Book, avers that Breamore, or Bromore, was part of the Manor of Rockbourne.

Speed (1676) informs us that Rockstead, or Rockwyth, was a dependency of the Priory of Breamore.

Breamore House is a fine Elizabethan Mansion, restored about 1870, and contains some valuable tapestries.

Charford is one-and-a-half miles North of Breamore. It was originally Kardickforde, Cerdicesforde (see page 7, Chapter I.), Forde of Kerdick, afterwards Cherdeforde, Cerdeforde, and now Chardforde, corrupted into Charford. A piece of land here was called Natan'sleod, after a potent British King of that name, probably Aurelius Ambrosius (father of Arthur of the legends).

c.—Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary, 1808.

cc.—"The Priory was near the Mill, itself mentioned in Doomsday."—Bevan's Hampshire.

d.—See Article in "Nineteenth Century," 1879. Bevan's Hampshire.

In A.D. 508, Ambrosius, after a sanguinary contest, was defeated in battle at Cerdicesford, when the gallant Aurelius and 5,000 men were slain. Cerdic then crossed the Avon, attacked and took Armslay, and proceeded to Winchester, where he was crowned King of Wessex.[e] The mounds near the farm-house cover, it is supposed, the remains of a Church, built in 1404;[f] and some antiquities have been found. The Mill was assessed, in Doomsday Book, at fifteen shillings and one thousand two hundred and fifty eels.

Bickton, a hamlet one mile South of Fordingbridge, whose Mill is mentioned in Doomsday Book (see p. 6, Chapter I.) Messrs. Neave & Co. employ about twenty-five hands, and the Mill works day and night.

At Redbrook, midway between Bickton and the Town, was the Tannery of Messrs. Skinner, but of which scarcely any trace now remains.

Cranborne, a small Town and Hundred, five miles West of Fordingbridge. In A.D. 980, Aylwardus Snew built an Abbey for black monks here, to which the Monastery of Tewkesbury was subject; but in 1102, Abbot Girald and his monks removed to Tewkesbury, leaving at Cranborne a prior and two monks. At the Dissolution, Elizabeth granted the Priory to Thomas Francis;[f] and James II., in 1694, granted to Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, "the hundred, lordship, manor, chase and free warren, manor lands, fair of Cranborne, Castle Hill and Burwood." Several Kings of England have been guests at the grand old Manor House, and the records state that John visited there fourteen times during his reign; James I., Charles I., and Queen Elizabeth also being among the Royal occupants of the mansion. On "Munday, Oct. 14, 1664," Charles I., when his army was marching over Cranborne Down, "laye in a faire stone house of the Earl of Salisbury." "In the Court Rolls, mention is made of a dungeon, the reputed prison in the Manor House for Cranborne Chase."[g] The mansion is worth a visit, be it to note its architectural design, the valuable tapestries, or the old oak, so diligently collected by the late Marquis. For many centuries the Cecils have been the owners of some thousands of acres around Cranborne. In the reign of Edward IV., the Manor reverted to the Crown, and for many generations it was frequently granted to great personages for their lives, or in jointure to some of the Queens of England. The present Manor House is an embattled building, the greater part of which is probably of the early part of the 16th century, although there are indications of an earlier

e.—Camden's Britannica, 1599. See also pp. 7 and 61.
f.—Kelly's Directory. g.—Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary.

structure. Additions were made to the North and South wings in the reign of James I., and the ornamental parts are striking examples of the Italian style of architecture of that period. The arms of Robert, Earl of Salisbury, surmount the parapet of the North porch. Over the South entrance are two circular niches, in one of which is carved a balance—the emblem of justice, and in the other a female figure holding an ear of corn or a palm branch—the emblem of plenty and peace. The centre is of the time of Henry VIII.; the East wing, Jacobean; and the West wing of the time of Charles I., or perhaps Queen Anne. The great hall is the most noteworthy room in the house—it being in fact the hall of judicature, where the Hundred, Baronial, and Chase Courts were held. This room has some very fine carved oak panelling; and there are three old pieces of tapestry—one representing the Queen of Sheba making her offerings to Solomon. These tapestries were in a much neglected condition on the succession to the estate of the late Marquis, but they have now been restored, and are interesting objects in the ancient hall. The mansion was restored by the late Marquis in 1863. King John visited Cranborne for hunting in the Chase.[n] The Church is dedicated to SS. Mary and Bartholomew, and contains a magnificent oak pulpit, some good monuments, and a few valuable books. The population of the Parish in 1801, was 1402; and in 1901, 687.

Hyde, two miles from Fordingbridge, has a pretty little Church in the Decorated style. The foundation stone was laid on the 1st of June, 1854. The Church is dedicated to the "Holy Ascension."

Frogham, one-and-a-half miles from Fordingbridge. Saxon history indicates that the School of Lancarven was at Alclud, or Frogham. The local name, "Abbott's Well," is now the only clue to the house of St. Dubritius.[oo]

A few minutes' walk southwards brings us to the Race-course—the scene of considerable excitement at the time the "Fordingbridge Races and Amusements" were held. From Gorley Hill we obtain a fine panoramic view: Hengisbury Head to the South; Portland beyond, a little to the West; and to the North, the Wiltshire Downs, Old Sarum, and the top of the Spire of Salisbury Cathedral are visible. Almost at our feet lies the lovely and fertile Valley of the Avon, rich in corn and cattle, the green meadows cleverly irrigated by the silver threads meandering through their midst, upon which the declining sun throws here and there a golden lustre.

n.—Itinerary of King John, Archæologia, vol. 22. oo.—Argyle.

Descending to the South from this point of vantage, we make for Moyles Court, an Elizabethan mansion, the residence of Dame Alicia Lisle,[o] who, after the Battle of Sedgemoor, in 1685, concealed a dissenting preacher, Hicks, and Nelthorpe, a lawyer, both of whom had been actively concerned in the Rye House Plot and the Monmouth Rebellion. Hicks informed his hostess of his position, and she thereupon despatched a servant to a Justice, but gave orders that the men were to escape. At this juncture, a party of King's Troops entered the house, and, finding the fugitives, arrested them and the unfortunate Lady Lisle. Hicks and Nelthorpe were afterwards hung at Glastonbury. Dame Alicia was tried at Winchester, and twice acquitted, but the inhuman Jeffreys, with the aid of Colonel Kirke and his "Lambs," compelled the jury to reverse their verdict, and she was executed at that city in 1685, and was buried at Ellingham. Her husband, John Lisle, was a zealous Puritan, and one of the Judges of Charles I.; he was also M.P. for Winchester in 1640, and the Master of St. Cross Hospital. Upon the Restoration he fled to Switzerland, and was there murdered by Thomas Macdonald. Dame Alicia (grand-daughter of William Beconsawe, of Ibbesley) was, however, a Loyalist, and her son a soldier in the King's army. The mansion remained in possession of the family of De Insula Vecta—afterwards contracted to L'Isle—for upwards of two centuries. In course of time, the old house fell much to decay, and became a wreck. The oak floors were pulled up and used for the Picture Gallery at Somerley; so that in 1860, nought remained of its former state but the bare walls and the private Chapel, with its carved heads and oak panels, and "Ecce homo" over the probable place of the altar. The present owner is Lord Normanton, whose predecessors purchased the estate of Charles Lisle in 1810. The mansion was carefully restored and tastefully furnished by the late F. Fane, Esq., who compiled a brief but interesting History of Moyles Court.

Hard by, across the brook known as Docken's Water, and just without the strict boundary of the New Forest, is the reputed handsomest tree of the Forest. It measures eighteen feet eight-and-a-half inches round the butt, and is certainly a magnificent specimen of an oak tree.

Ibbesley, Abesley, Tibeslei,[p] or Ibbesly, a village prettily situated on the Avon, three miles South of Fordingbridge, is mentioned in Doomsday Book as having a Mill assessed at ten shillings and seven hundred eels. The Church of St. Martin, rebuilt in 1832, possesses a valuable Queen Anne service of Communion plate, a curious monument to Sir John Constable, 1627, and one to Sir White Beconsawe, of Moyles Court. The

o.—For detailed story, see "Tales of the Hundred of Ford."
p.—Wise's "New Forest."

benefice is annexed to Fordingbridge Vicarage. The register contains the following:—"1679, Nov. 11, certified by John Torbuck, Vicar of Ellingham, y[t] Edward Bailey and Nicholas, of Ibbesley, were buried in woollen only,"[q] in compliance with an Act of Parliament, 1679, for the encouragement of woollen manufactures. The Colthurst charity, of the annual value of £10, is for bread and blankets for the poor; there is also a charity left by Giles Rooke in 1682. The rates in 1803 amounted to £169 16s. 2d. Opposite the Church, and overlooking the River, stood Ibbesley House, the seat of Jeremiah Cray, Esq. (see page 10).

The Duke of Monmouth, together with Lord Grey, is reported to have been taken prisoner in the stately Avenue which leads from Ibsley to Ellingham, by Lord Lumley, in July, 1685;[r] it is, however, now generally accredited that the place of his capture was Woodlands, near Cranborne.[s]

Harbridge and Somerley lie on the right bank of the Avon, spanned at Ibsley by an elegant single arch built of stone.

Ellingham, or Adeling's Hamlet, is situated on the East side of the Avon, two miles from Ringwood. The Church was originally dedicated to All Saints, with the Chapel of St. Mary attached; but the latter title is the present designation of this interesting old Church. "It was, with others, the first and chief endowment "of an alien Priory, and was cell to St. Sauver le Vicomte in the "Diocese of Constance, in Normandy, to which it was given by "William de Solaris, A.D. 1163. In 1385, it was given to William "Oliver, Keeper of St. John's Hospital, at Fordingbridge. After "the suppression, the rent reserved to the Crown was given by "Henry VI. to Eton College, to which Edward VI. gave the "Rectory of Ellingham."[t] The living is valued in the King's Book at eight pounds four shillings and ninepence. The interior contains a plain rood screen, the stand for the hour glass, and the old pulpit, and a beautiful Jacobean pew pertaining to Moyles Court. The Chancel windows are Early English. A realistic panel painting, "The Last Judgment," by Goltius, a Flemish artist, formerly constituted an altar-piece, but is now removed from that position to the West end. Connoisseurs are not agreed as to its merit; it was, however, brought by Brigadier Wilson from Port St. Mary, after the seige of Cadiz, in 1702,[u] and was given to the Church by Admiral Lord Windsor. The wood carving around the painting is by Grinling Gibbons. In the South wall is a double

q.—Burn's History of Parish Registers,
r.—"Beauties of England and Wales," vol. IV., p. 436.
s.—Hutching's Dorset. t.—Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary.
u.—Bayley's and Britton's "Beauties of England and Wales."

piscina; and on the walls above the wood screen are roughly painted two verses from the Geneva Bible.[j] In the churchyard is the plain tomb of "Alicia Lisle, dyed second of Sept., 1685." In the Church Register is the following:—

1556—First payed for a rod (rood) xij^{s}
Itm payed for the paschall and font tapers ij^{s} viij^{d}

Ringwood (see Chapter I.), from Regnum Wood or King'swood (see Doomsday Book), is six miles South of Fordingbridge. It possesses an interesting and handsome thirteenth century Church, of pure cruciform design, rebuilt in 1854; a very fine fifteenth century brass, to the memory of John Profete, Vicar, afterwads Dean of York, who died in 1416. Collars and gloves are largely manufactured in the town.

Rockbourne, and Rockwyth, three miles North from Fordingbridge, deserve notice. At the former, near the Manor House, the birthplace of the first Earl of Shaftesbury, are the ruins of a Priory; whilst upon Down Farm, half-a-mile distant, are two British barrows. There was a large Military Camp on Rockbourne Down, during the War with France. In case of invasion, the women and children were to be taken to Vernditch; George Reeves, of Fordingbridge, was one of those appointed to see to this.[jj]

Whitsbury, four miles from Fordingbridge, is in Wilts, but the Rectory is in Hants. The Church, dedicated to St. Leonard, is beautifully situated in Hampshire, on an eminence, above the village, where there is a commanding view of the surrounding country. It was founded by a benefactor in the reign of Henry I., at the time when the Manor of Whitsbury was given to the Abbey of Reading, and the Tithes of the Manor to the neighbouring Priory of Breamore, in whose hands they remained until the dissolution of the Priory, when they were granted to the Marquis of Exeter; after his execution they were granted to various persons, and continued alienated until they were restored to the Church of Whitsbury by the family of Doddington, over 200 years ago. The Doddingtons formerly owned the Manor of Breamore, now belonging to Sir Edward Hulse. But beside the Church, Whitsbury (anciently Witesbury) is otherwise not uninteresting to the Antiquary, for it possesses a large and strongly fortified earthwork of an oblong shape, enclosing some fifteen acres, surrounded by high embankments and deep ditches, supposed to have been a very ancient British settlement, and utilised by the Romans at a later period. The site of an ancient

j.—Wise's New Forest.
jj.—Extract from Letter of the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury to George Morrice.

castle is still pointed out; and there is a grandly-built well of 400 feet deep near the spot. This earthwork has two entrances—one on the South and the other on the North—from which the well-known Grim's Ditch (an ancient battle way) proceeds to the Down beyond. This was probably one of the positions held by the Britons against the forces of Cerdic, the Saxon, about A.D. 520, with others in the neighbourhood, such as Castle Hill, War Ditch, and Damer. "There is undoubted evidence of severe and long-continued battles in and about this encampment. Witsbury, or the Hall Cynvellyn (one mile from Rockbourne), was a famous Saxon fortress, called White Tower, or Stone of the White Dog of Cian, to whom it belonged. The place was also known as Iwardon, from its yew tree avenue, of which now only eight trees remain. The area of the castle and outposts was fifteen acres, the castle and gardens occupying three acres. The fortress was taken from the British by Buidulp and Colgrin during the conflict at Armslay and Charford (see page 53). The British made two attempts to retake it—once under King Arthur himself. The remains of the outworks are well worth a visit. The square well, 400 feet in depth, is probably Roman work."[k]

Downton, though just in the Wiltshire border, is particularly interesting for its Moot House, i.e., the gathering place when the Mother of Parliaments was in embryo.[l]

Alderholt, Dorset, one-and-a-half miles from Fordingbridge, was known to the Saxons as Cat-gurnion; here King Arthur fought the Battle of that name, and then marched to retake Witesbury. Being unsuccessful, he retired on Godeu (Fordingbridge), and fought the Battle referred to on page 54, against Cerdic, Cymric, and Colgrin.[m]

Damerham, a village between Fordingbridge and Cranborne, possesses an ancient Church with Norman porch. The Rectory cellar has a fine groined roof, and was probably a private Chapel of a former house. In the vicinity is West Park, the seat of the Coote family. In 1830, the Mansion was attacked by the "Rioters;" a struggle ensued, several prisoners were secured, and the leaders sent to Winchester.

The Manor of Woodfidley Rectory. The Masters and Scholars of St. Mary's College, Cambridge, were seized of this and Ringwood Rectory in the reign of King Henry VI.; and in 1670 claimed hunting and privilege of having charges of trespass, by them or their tenants, heard by the Chief Justice of King's Bench.[n]

k.—Argyle.
l.—"Highways and Byeways of Hampshire," by D. H. Montrey, 1908.
m.—Geoffrey. n.—Lewis' Historical Enquiries.

The Railway Station is at Ashford, distant from the town about half-a-mile, on the road to Damerham. The line was opened in 1865, and called the Salisbury and Dorset Junction Railway; but in 1883 it was purchased by the London and South Western Railway Company. The Station yard, a solid bed of gravel, has been excavated to the depth of ten to twenty feet. At Ashford are situated the celebrated Farinaceous Food Works of Messrs. J. R. Neave & Co.

Crossing the Railway Bridge, and striking across a field to the right, we see Sandle Manor House, a fine specimen of Elizabethan architecture, recently rebuilt, except the porch, and considerably enlarged, containing a grand old oak staircase, and a subterranean passage said to lead to the Church.

East Mills, called in the old deeds "The Manor of East Mills," half-a-mile on the Southampton Road, was attacked by "Rioters" in 1830. On November 23rd, four hundred men, under Hunt alias Cooper, entered Fordingbridge, and then proceeded to East Mills, where they destroyed plant and machinery valued at £3,000, causing one hundred hands to be thrown out of work. In 185—, the Mills were destroyed by fire, but have since been rebuilt. Messrs. Thompson & Co., until recently, employed upwards of two hundred hands at this and the Town Mill, in the manufacture of sail-cloth and sacking. The Mills are now, unfortunately, closed; but Motor Works have now been established.

At Fishes Herring, or Hawkins' Fisher, near East Mills, an exceedingly pretty view is obtained. In the foreground, the verdant oaks overhang the River winding lazily between its banks, gay with the sweet comfrey, spikes of loose strife, the gaudy water lily, iris, and pink valerian, and last, but not least, the lovely and modest forget-me-not, peeping from the shelter of the rushes or graceful willows. In the distance, the woods—silent save for the cooing of the dove, or the piping of the nightingale—cast a dark and melancholy shade over the deep waters at their base; whilst the cattle pasturing upon the luxuriant meadows or green slopes, complete a picture as extensive as it is full of pastoral beauty.

Leaving this picturesque spot, we continue along the road to Criddlestyle, and entering a field on the left, ascend by a steep path to Sandy Balls, a beautiful wood and favourite resort, embracing magnificent and extensive views. Following the pathway for about a mile, we come to a large arable field, and striking across it to the left, enter the ancient British or Roman Camp of Godeshulle,[k] or Godmans-cap.[l] The North and East

k.—Bayley's and Britton's "Beauties of England and Wales," 1805.
l.—White's Hampshire.

sides of the square are defended by ramparts and fosses, whilst the other sides are difficult of access, from the steepness of the ascent from the River, which probably flowed just at the base of the hill, the intervening marsh being doubtless an alluvial deposit. The camp contains 304,920 square feet.

Continuing to move in a northerly direction, we come to an ancient fortification, popularly known as "Castle," or Castle Hill; but more correctly it is "Armslay,"[m] so called, because it is supposed that after the Battle of Cerdeford, the British troops, or garrison here laid down arms upon the advance of the victorious Cerdic[n] (see page 54).

I was informed by old Mr. Penton that he remembered the remains of embrasures on Castle Hill, and that he had heard that there was a Fort there during the expected invasion by the French. He saw three 7lb. cannon balls dug out of the gravel pit, which is at the Woodgreen end of Castle Hill (see also page 58).

At the rear is the Queen's Plantation and Godshill Plain, which, previous to 1800, was "covered with thick oaks and hollies."[o]

About a mile South is Stuckton, where there is an Iron Foundry, which also suffered severely at the hands of the "Rioters." Behind the Foundry, a footpath leads to Blissford, past a small field on the left side of the stream, known as "Small Pox Ground," for here, over a hundred years ago, stood a Small Pox House (see page 48).

m.—For the Story, see "Tales of the Hundred of Ford."
n.—Lewis' Historical Enquiries.
o.—Ibid. 1811, and Gough's Camden's Britannica Saxonica.

Chapter VI.

A FEW NOTES ON THE FAUNA AND FLORA OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF FORDINGBRIDGE.

THE Valley of the Avon, having on its East side the Hampshire New Forest, on the West the Wiltshire Downs, and on the North-west the extensive Moorlands of Dorsetshire, forms a grand and varied field for the student of Natural History to prosecute his researches, by the collection of specimens and the observance of animal and vegetable life, under most favourable circumstances.

Few, if any, localities in the United Kingdom offer greater facilities, or more numerous attractions, for the lover of Nature, than the one comprised within a radius of six miles from Fordingbridge.

We shall not attempt, within the limits of this article, to give complete lists of the natural productions, but refer any of our readers desirous of such particulars to the very complete Ornithological, Botanical, and Entomological Appendices, published by Mr. Wise in his History of the New Forest and its surroundings, also to Townsend's "Flora of Hampshire," recently published.

Our object will be, by a hasty glance at a few of the most remarkable and noteworthy productions, to awaken an interest in, and promote the study of, the Fauna and Flora of this highly-favoured district.

THE ORNITHOLOGY.

AMONG the Raptores, or Birds of Prey, the occurrence of a White-tailed Eagle, shot on Lord Normanton's Estate, about half a century ago, may be mentioned; and the Osprey has been known, during the last few years, to come on a fishing excursion up the Avon as far as Ringwood. Up to a recent period, the Honey Buzzard was an annual visitor to the New Forest, where its eggs have frequently been taken; and on one occasion we visited a nest built in an oak tree near Amberwood. Peregrine Falcons are still frequently shot, and the Hen Harriers are by no means rare. The Common Buzzard, Hobby, and Merlin, occur less frequently; but the Sparrow Hawk and Kestrel, and Brown, Barn, and Long-eared Owls, are still common; while the Short-eared Owl is reckoned among our Winter visitors. The Red-backed Shrike, or Butcher Bird, is a constant Summer sojourner; and the Great Grey and Woodchat Shrikes are occasional stragglers. The Spotted Flycatcher constantly breeds with us; and the Pied Flycatcher occurs occasionally, as do the Ring Ouzel and Golden Oriole.

Amongst the common Warblers, the Nightingale, Black Cap, Sedge Warbler, and Reed Wren, may be enumerated; and the Dartford and Grasshopper Warblers among the rarer species. Five species of Titmice, three kinds of Wagtails, two Pipets, two Larks, and five Buntings, are frequently met with. The Mountain Finch, Siskin, and Cross-bill, visit us in the Winter; and the Grossbeak has been known to breed at Broomy Lodge.

A few years ago, a specimen of the rare Rose-coloured Pastor was shot at Woodgreen, in the Merry Gardens, and was in the collection of the late Rev. H. G. W. Aubrey.

The Raven breeds annually near Breamore. And three species of Woodpecker—Green, Pied, and Lesser Spotted—find nesting places in our woods; where also may be found the Nuthatch, Wryneck, and Tree Creeper. The Hoopoe is a rarity, and is remarkable for its singular crest; and the Kingfisher, though common, is an object of interest from the brilliancy of its plumage.

A single specimen of the Spine-tailed Swallow was shot at Ringwood a few years ago, and is in the possession of Mr. Corbin.

On Summer evenings, the Nightjar or Goatsucker may frequently be seen hawking for moths and beetles, or uttering its singular whirring note while resting longitudinally on the branch of a neighbouring tree.

On the Moors, and in the Woods near Godshill, Black Grouse and Woodcocks are met with; and on the Downs near Charford, the Stone Curlew frequently, and the Quail occasionally breed; and the Golden Plover is sometimes seen.

Amongst Water Birds, the Heron may be considered common, the Bittern and Little Bittern rare, Snipe and Sandpipers frequent. Moorhens, Coots, and Dabchicks, may always be seen on the Avon; and in the Winter, numbers of Tufted Ducks, Poachards, Widgeon, Teal, and other species; while Goosanders, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Divers, visit us more sparingly.

In the Winter of 1885, a fine specimen of the Spoon-bill was shot by Mr. Gibson, on the Shallows, near Bickton Farm. Another was also seen.

Cormorants, in their fishing excursions, travel up the Avon, sometimes as far as Salisbury; Gannets and Terns, or Sea Swallows, as far as Fordingbridge.

Gulls and Petrels are sometimes driven inland by rough weather; and in the Spring, Black-headed and other Gulls may be seen on the Downs, searching for worms and other food on the newly-ploughed lands.

Adequately to describe the Birds of our vicinity would require a volume, instead of one short chapter. But we may add in conclusion, that there are about three hundred and sixty species of British Birds; that one hundred and sixty have been known to occur within our prescribed limits; and that of these, ninety-eight have remained to breed, and may therefore be considered residents, though some of them leave the country after the season of nidification.

THE BOTANY.

FROM the variety of soils in our neighbourhood, few districts contain more Wild Flowers. In a single Summer we have collected four hundred species, and have no doubt more might be added by giving more time and attention to the pursuit. Among insectivorous plants may be mentioned two Sun-dews, one Butterwort, and one Bladderwort. Asarabacca grows abundantly at Redlynch—the only known locality South of the Tweed. At Rockbourne, the Wild Tulip and Green Hellebore; at Boveridge, the Lily of the Valley; at Daggons, the Marsh

Gentian, or Calathian Violet; at Hale, the Small Teasel and Golden Saxifrage; near Fordingbridge, the Shining Crane's-bill, Marsh Helleborine, various Orchises, Asphodel, Bog Pimpernel, Dodder, Perfoliate Chlora, Bog Myrtle, three kinds of Heath, two of Furze, several Campanulas, and many other remarkable Flowers. Of Ferns, sixteen or seventeen varieties may be found, and numerous Mosses, and other Non-flowering Plants.

THE ENTOMOLOGY.

THE New Forest has been called the Metropolis of Entomological pursuits. We may, with equal justice, call the Neighbourhood of Fordingbridge the Paradise of Entomologists, every class of Insect being represented. Among the Coleoptera, we may mention the singular Stag Beetle or "Pinch Buck," the brilliant Rose Beetle, the fragrant Musk Beetle, the fœtid Burying Beetles, the handsome Tiger Beetle, the curious Oil and Blood Beetles. The large Grasshopper or "Locust," and the Mole Cricket, are not uncommon. The Hornet, and many species of Flies, Dragon Flies, Wild Bees and Wasps, are frequently met with, also several kinds of Lady Birds and Bugs.

Amongst the Lepidoptera, or Butterflies and Moths, many rare species occur. The various Fritillaries, Hair Streaks, Tortoise Shells, Red and White Admirals, Clouded Yellows, and Whites, form a brilliant assemblage of Butterflies on a sunny day in Summer; while the Moths are equally well represented by various Sphinxes, as the Death's Head, Privet, Elephant, Convolvulus, Poplar and Humming Bird, by Red and Yellow Underwings, Emperors, Tigers, Moths, Peach Blossoms, &c., &c.

THE ICHTHYOLOGY.

The River Avon is a favourite resort of the disciples of Isaac Walton, abounding as it does with Salmon, Trout, Grayling, Pike, Roach and Dace, and two kinds of Eels. Perch are not often met with close to Fordingbridge; but amongst smaller Fish may be enumerated Gudgeon, Loach, Sticklebacks, Minnows, Lampreys, Bullheads, &c., &c.

THE CONCHOLOGIST

may enrich his cabinet with a fine series of Land and Fresh Water Shells; while the collector of Animals may meet with the Badger, Otter, Hedgehog, Squirrel, and various species of Rats and Mice, including the Harvest Mouse, the smallest of British quadrupeds. Reptiles are represented by the Common Frog, Toad and Sand Lizard, various Water Newts, the Blind Worm, the Common Snake, and the Viper, the only poisonous British Reptile.

We may conclude this hasty and necessary imperfect sketch of our Fauna and Flora in the words of Mr. Wise, the author of the work on the New Forest before mentioned:—"I feel sure that nobody knows anything of the true charms of the country who is ignorant of Natural History. With the slightest knowledge of it, every leaf is full of meaning, every pebble a history, every torn branch gilded with lichens, and silvered with mosses, has its wonders to tell; and you will find life in the dust, and beauty in the commonest weed."

Chapter VII.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AS WRITTEN IN ITS ROCKS.

We'll note in one brief Summer's day
The record of millions of years.—*Bret Harte.*

TO trace the History of a place during the times before history or tradition, we must, like Robinson Crusoe, from the foot-print, find out what we can, from what we can see in the earth itself. From the nature of its rocks, we may be able to infer what the country used to be like; or from the bones buried in them, we may be able to tell what animals lived there.

Chalk, for instance—when we wash some* and look at it with a microscope, we see a fine white paste, in which are myriads of little shells, so small† that two or three millions would go into an ordinary thimble. These shells are made up of a number of chambers, variously arranged. One of the commonest (*Globigerina cretacea*) is an aggregate of globular chambers, and

*—Another way is to rub down a piece until it becomes transparent.

†—Their diameter in the Downton Chalk varies from 1-500 to 1-200 of an inch.

resembles a coarse raspberry. In all of them the chamber-walls are perforated with many small holes, whence they are called *Foraminifera*. It is pretty evident that these shells are those of some minute animal. In fact, such animals having shells indistinguishable from those in the chalk, are found living in countless numbers in the surface waters of the oceans. And further, when a sample of the bottom—as of the Atlantic—is brought up by a dredge or a sounding-line, it is found to be a soft grey mud, which when dry resembles chalk, and is made up of the same minute shells. From this we may reasonably conclude, that like the ocean mud of the present day, the chalk has been formed by these little animals, which to make their shells are able to separate from the sea-water the small quantity of carbonate of lime (chalk) contained in it; then die, and sinking gently through hundreds or thousands of feet of water, their empty shells accumulate on the floor of the sea.

Thus wherever we see chalk we know that an ocean once rolled, through whose waters, the Foraminiferal shells falling more lightly than the motes in a sunbeam, formed the finest films on the sea-bottom—for years, centuries, and ages—till a thickness of many hundred feet had accumulated.* And as we can trace the chalk all over Europe, from Ireland to the Crimea and from Sweden to the Pyrenees, it is plain that this part of the world did not then appear as it does now, but was a wide-extended sea.

Flint, again—when we look at a piece attentively, we may see in it radiating spicules like slender thorns, or bits of fine net-work or branching tubes. Many flints are full of such structures, which suggest, that like the chalk itself, they may have been formed of the remains of living things. Among the surface animalculae of existing seas and oceans there are some (*Radiolaria*) which have little radiating skeletons of flint, and sinking to the bottom are found more or less abundantly in all deep sea muds. The bottom of the deep sea is also, in many places, crowded with sponges—gelatinous animals having a flinty skeleton. This organically-formed flint is fairly soluble, and there can be little doubt that when the sponges die, their skeletons, and those of the Radiolaria, become dissolved into flint-jelly, which gradually solidifies again in lumps in and around the decaying sponges, probably by gradually converting into flint the foraminiferal shells immediately around them. This action doubtless went on while the chalk was yet a soft watery ooze under the sea, and has continued more or less ever since. The structures in flints are those portions which have escaped solution—chiefly sponge-skeletons. One can hardly

*—Beneath Fordingbridge the chalk is about 800 feet thick; in the Isle of Wight, from 1,000 to 1,300 feet.

break a flint without finding some portions of them. The regular layers of flints seem due to the successive growths and periodical death of these sponges, which, like the thread in sugar candy, formed centres about which the flint solidified. On the other hand, the "tabular" flint, which occurs in continuous sheets, filling cracks or fissures in the chalk, has been formed by the filling up of these cracks with the flinty matter dissolved out of the chalk by the rain-water which filters through it.

In this way, by looking at what is going on in the seas of to-day, we may satisfy ourselves that the chalk and its flints are the mud of an old sea-bottom, which has undergone such alterations, by the decay of its calcareous shells, and the running together of its flinty particles, as must necessarily take place in the course of time. Hollow flints sometimes preserve a little of the original mud, full of the spicules of a great variety of sponges.*

A considerable part of the chalk also consists of minute fragments of the larger sea shells, especially of a kind of oyster (*Inoceramus*). We may also find in it the remains of corals, scallops, spiny-cockles, lamp-shells, cuttle-fish, star-fish, sea-urchins, sea-worms, lobsters, various fish and sharks, many sea reptiles, turtles, flying lizards, &c. As calcareous ooze is not now formed in water of less than 400 to 500 fathoms, we may conclude that the chalk sea was not less than that depth. It appears to have formed a branch of the Atlantic. On its surface, some stray gull or winged reptile perched on a piece of drift-wood, or a sea-lizard† putting his head out of the water for a breath, or a bit of coast-ice floating southwards from Scotland or Scandinavia, were all we should have seen; for these were days long before man had appeared, and no ship ever sailed the dark blue sea. In Devonshire, our chalk becomes thinner and sandy, showing that in that direction lay its shores.

The bottom of our chalk is seen in the Vale of Wardour, as near Barford and Shaftesbury. In the quarries near these places (as, e.g., in a cutting on the S.W.R., a little to the West of Barford) there may be seen beneath the chalk a soft green sandstone, which has been used to some extent in the North buttresses of Fordingbridge Church. This stone is full of oyster and scallop shells, which are very much the same as those found in the chalk

*—For example, from the interior of a single flint from Horstead, in Norfolk, Dr. G. J. Hinde has described and figured 160 forms of spicules, belonging to about 38 species and 32 genera of sponges—a surprising variety, but which is paralleled in the deposits of the present oceans.

†—In recent years, more than fifty kinds of these extraordinary reptiles, some of them exceeding seventy-five feet in length, have been found in the Cretaceous Rocks of Western N. America.

above; and we may therefore conclude that these sandy beds (since hardened by the filtering through them of rain-water) were formed in water not more than 100 or 150 fathoms deep, along the shore-line of a sea which was then gradually extending over the eastern half of England.

The Lower Chalk is of a more or less clayey or marly nature, pointing to land lying probably to the northward. The top bed is especially clayey, and nearly all the shell-fish become extinct, showing that the sea had become too cold, or in some way unsuited to their constitutions.

In the Middle Chalk (*Turonian*), 70 per cent. of the shell-fish are new forms. In the middle beds, the remains of many fish and lobsters show a shoaling of the sea; and this is still more clearly indicated in the top bed, the "Chalk-Rock," containing many sea-snails (*Turbo*), which, like the modern periwinkle, must have lived in waters sufficiently shallow to support vegetable growths.

The Upper Chalk (*Senonian*) is a very pure calcareous sediment. The time which elapsed during its deposit was sufficient to allow of a variation in the forms of the shell-fish and the replacement of one by another.* We can trace this in the Upper Chalk of our own Valley, from its lowest part (with *Micraster cor-testudinarium*) in the pit East of Clearbury, to its highest (with *Belemnitella mucronata*), which appears in the pits at Redlynch, Searchfield, Breamore, Outwick, Whitsbury, Brookheath, West Park, and Damerham. The most abundant

*—The Green-sand and Chalk of England are divisible into thirteen zones according to the kind of fossil shells they contain. Out of 400 different kinds tabulated, only 17, or 4 per cent., occur throughout; and as some of the common forms have a very small vertical range, it is possible to tell with considerable accuracy the vertical place in the chalk of any particular pit or exposure. These zones and their approximate thicknesses in our own district are as follows:—

Upper Chalk (Senonian) 500 feet.	Zone of *Belemnitella mucronata*	about	100 feet
	" " " *quadrata*	"	100 "
	" " *Marsupites testudinarius*, and *Holaster pilula*	"	150 "
	" " *Micraster cor-anguinum*	"	100 "
	" " " *cor-testudinarium*	"	50 "
Middle Chalk (Turonian) 150 feet.	" " *Holaster planus*, and *Ammonites Prosperianus*	"	15 "
	" " *Inoceramus Brongniarti* and *Terebratulina gracilis*	"	85 "
	" " *Inoceramus labiatus*	"	50 "
Lower Chalk 150 feet.	" " *Belemnitella plena*	"	10 "
	" " *Holaster subglobosus*	"	135 "
Green-sand and part of Gault 100 feet.	" " Chloritic Marl	"	5 "
	" " *Pecten asper*	"	20 "
	" " *Ammonites inflatus*	"	80 "

Cenomanian

remains are those of sponges and sea-urchins, and such shell-fish as *Terebratula, Pecten, Lima,* and *Spondylus,* of which all but the latter have already been dredged from depths of over 1,400 fathoms—so that during this time the sea bottom must have sunk to a greater depth than ever since.

But there came a time when a slight wrinkling of the earth's crust, affecting the whole of Europe, began to lift it up along E. and W. lines, till some parts became so shallow as to be washed off by the waves. About 100 feet have thus been removed in the neighbourhood of Dunbridge, Bishopstoke, and Waltham. As the sea became too shallow, many of the animals died off, and became extinct. The descendents of others, often but little changed, are still found in the Atlantic. The parts that remained sea longest lay between Denmark and the North of France. But eventually the sea-bed became land. The special forms of life passed away, never to return. The CRETACEOUS* period had come to an end.

At this time we may picture to ourselves the site of Fordingbridge as part of a vast plain of chalk and shingle, lying at about sea-level, continually being worn away by the waves, and such parts as were above water slowly acquiring soil and vegetation. How long it remained in this condition we have no means of knowing. But it was certainly an immense time, for when again the sea returned over portions of the district, we find that the Cretaceous animals, except a few low forms, had entirely disappeared, and had given place to others much more like those of the present day. The succeeding period is therefore spoken of as the EOCENE (dawn of the recent).

Across the country, between Redlynch and Cranborne, we see, lying on the chalk, beds of oysters, pebbles, and sand, showing how the sea returned. Shell-fish began to bore into the now hardened surface of the chalk. Oysters, hardly distinguishable from those of the present day, grew to a great size (seven inches in diameter),and formed banks, from a few inches to several feet in thickness, as may be seen at Redlynch, Outwick, Damerham, and Lopshill.† In these oyster-banks we also find scallops, and the teeth of sharks, which roamed about in the shallow water. In some places, as at Grimstead, Whaddon, and near Hawkhill

*—Lat. *Creta*—chalk. It was the last deposit of the Mesozoic, or Middle-life period.

†—At Lopshill, in the side of a lane on the way to Hyde farm, may be seen 4 feet of oysters in green-sand, resting on bored chalk. When the boring at Fordingbridge Gas Works had reached a depth of 202 feet, the tool came up filled with broken oyster-shell, mixed with green-sand; this continued for 10 feet, when the chalk was entered, proving the bed to be the same as that at Lopshill.

Mill, are patches of a peculiar red mottled clay, known as the *Plastic Clay*, showing where a great river entered the sea, bringing with it sand and fine clay from the granite rocks of the West of England.* In other places the waves accumulated great quantities of perfectly rounded flint pebbles (e.g., at Stone Hill Wood), forming here pebble-banks, and there sand-banks, as they do nowadays. The water which deposited these various sediments extended to beyond London and Reading, whence they are known as the *Woolwich* and *Reading Beds*. At Redlynch, 80 feet of these beds were passed through in the well at the Clock-house. At the top of Court Hill, near Damerham, they are about 90 feet thick, the upper 30 feet being sand with impure pipe-clay. In the boring at Fordingbridge Gas Works they are about 75 feet thick.†

As the land continued to sink, the sea became a little deeper, though still shallow—nowhere in this neighbourhood exceeding a few fathoms. Beds of blue clay (fine mud) were formed, as we see in the brickyards at Redlynch, Outwick, Sandhill Heath, &c., where they are about 60 feet thick, overlying the W. and R. beds. They are somewhat sandy, and contains seams of pebbles and sand, showing that the margin of the sea was at no great distance. The shell-fish which we find in the clay are also such as live in quite shallow water. Razor-shells, *Panopæas*, *Pholadomyas*, and *Tellens*, burrowed in the mud. In some places, cockles, large oysters, and *Pinnæ* abounded, and small corals grew on the oysters. Whelks, sea-snails, *Volutes*, and many others, crawled about and rasped holes in one another. The ship-worm (*Teredo*) bored into floating drift-wood. Fig-shells (*Pyrulæ*) attained a great size, showing that the seas were warmer here than they now are. Some of these shells have been met with in a well at Sandhill Heath Brickyard, in the well at the new house above Sweatford Railway Bridge, and in the boring at Fordingbridge Gas Works. In the London district the sea was deeper, and the Eocene river carried into it a great quantity of silt, making the clay there from 400 to 500 feet thick, whence it goes by the name of the *London Clay*. In this district the W. and R. beds appear to be earlier, and the clay beds the later deposit of the same sea, which we may call the London clay sea. They give rise to the belt of woodland between the heaths and the downs.

The depression which brought in this sea was followed by a slight elevation which caused it gradually to recede. As the

*—Throughout the whole of Eocene time we can trace the presence of this river in the South of England. It had no connection with any existing river.

†—These thicknesses are merely approximate, as the upper limit is not well defined.

water shallowed, the clay deposited became more and more sandy, till we find it passing into loam, and this again into clean sharp sand. It is on these top beds of the London Clay (underneath the gravel) that Fordingbridge is situated. They are seen in the cuttings North of the Station, and were met with at the top of the boring at the Gas Works. This artesian boring passes through about 120 feet of the London Clay beds; the water rises from the lower 25 feet, which is sandy, at the rate of about 2,000 gallons per day. (For further details, see Appendix).

After this, perhaps long after, the Eocene River spread over our own district, and deposited great quantities of sand. This sand is a mass of considerable thickness, forming all the wide heaths and moorland on the West side of the valley, and stretching right away to the sea to Bournemouth, Wareham, and Dorchester. It is also seen at Woodgreen, Castle Hill, Godshill, Sandy Balls and Frogham; at Packham, in the Station cutting and the hill above; at Bower, Highfield, Midgham, Harbridge, Alderholt, Daggons, Cripplestyle, &c. It often contains seams of sandstone,* and thin seams of pipe-clay with vegetable remains and lignite; and in some places beds of clay, generally yellow and approaching to pipe-clay, as at Bickton, Alderholt, Daggons Road, &c. These clays are the finer sediments that filled in pools scooped out by the running water in the sands, which still show the marks of the shifting currents by which they were deposited.

At Corfe, Studland, and Alum Bay, and at Bournemouth, the pipe-clays contain great quantities of the leaves of trees, enabling us to form a definite idea of the forests which extended over the country, clothing hill and valley with a dense mantle of green. Here cypresses, yews, and the great Californian pines (*Sequoia*) raised aloft their dark green foliage; there fan-palms, feather-palms, and date-palms† were conspicuous. Gigantic aroids were also to be seen, and various kinds of *Sarsaparilla*. There were also groves of oaks, elms, beeches, hornbeams, chestnuts, planes, poplars, willows, laurels, figs, cinnamons, buckthorns, walnuts, maples, spindle-trees, and bread-fruits. Also the *Eucalyptus* or gum-tree, and other Australian trees. The tree trunks were garlanded with large tropical creepers (*Porana, Bignonia*). Giant cacti grew on the arid spots. The shade of the forest

*—The grains of sand contain a little iron, and where the rain soaks through they often become rusty and stick together, forming lumps of dark red sandstone—the only native stone we have. It is found all about the moors, e.g., in the pit at Daggons Road. It hardens by exposure, and is quite imperishable. It was used in many old buildings, as the Bridge and the Church Tower; and it forms the chief element in the beautiful Tower of Wimborne.

†—Even their fruits, fruit-stalks, and flower-sheaths are preserved.

supported an undergrowth of magnificent tropical ferns, and reeds and rushes waved beside the river.

This enormous variety of forest vegetation embedded in its silts, and their great width in Hants and Dorset, show that it drained a region with a considerable westerly extension. On the border of Dartmoor, near Bovey Tracey, may still be seen the deposits of one of its old lakes, showing the region through which it flowed, and whose decaying granite supplied the pipe-clay and sand. The presence of many American trees and shrubs, renders it probable that at this time, or shortly before, Britain was connected with America by way of the North Atlantic. The lower part of these beds are known as the *Lower Bagshot Beds,* from Bagshot Heath, near London; the upper part as the *Bournemouth Beds.* All the time they were being formed the land was gradually sinking. At Bournemouth, where they are about 1,000 feet thick (obliquely), we can trace in them the change from a comparative upland, to a valley, to a swamp, till the sea began to cover the delta deposits, forming lagoons, then mud banks, then banks of shingle, beds of sand, and lastly beds of clay. The sinking of land is an extremely slow process, and no doubt this land period lasted a very long time.

The shell-fish of the succeeding sea have a much more tropical look about them than those of the London Clay, besides being quite different, from which it would seem that the sinking of the land had brought in a more southern sea, then occupying a part of Europe. Its deposits are known as the *Bracklesham Beds,* from a place beyond Portsmouth, where they are very fossiliferous. We see them on the hill at Hyde, and in Blissford brick-yard, where they consist of sands with green grains, and clays containing oysters and a cockle. In some parts of the Forest they have yielded the most beautifully preserved fossil shells in England. In the Forest, and elsewhere, they contain a large foraminifer, the *Nummulite,** about the size and shape of a silver three-penny piece, which in Europe and Asia forms masses of rock thousands of feet in thickness, and these—though of the same age as the soft, modern-looking, and undisturbed beds of the Blissford pit—have there been fractured and upheaved on such a colossal scale as to form the loftiest mountain crests, till in the Himalaya they are higher than Mount Blanc.

These movements made themselves felt in this country; and after Bracklesham times the London district became dry land. In Hampshire the sea got deeper for a while during the deposit of the *Barton Beds.* These seas swarmed with shell-fish, of which many hundred distinct forms have been obtained from the Hants beds alone.

*—Money-stone.

After this, our sea once more formed the mouth of a large river; for above the Barton Beds we find, in the Isle of Wight, beds with sea-shells alternating with beds of river-shells, to a thickness of 600 feet (the *Fluvio-Marine* series); and each successive deposit covers a less space of country, showing that the estuary was filling up. After this the river became lost, and there is now no trace of it existing. In these newer beds we begin to find a few shell-fish which are now living, whence they receive the name OLIGOCENE* (a few recent). In Switzerland, the beds of this age are more than 6,000 feet thick, and were thrust up to form massive mountains, as in the well-known Righi and Rossberg.

In the neighbourhood of Fordingbridge, all the beds hitherto mentioned have a slope towards the S.E. As we trace them in this direction, each bed sinks underground, and becomes hidden by the one above it. Since they were deposited nearly level, this dip must be owing to some movement of the earth afterwards. The movements which brought about the close of the Cretaceous period, continued at intervals throughout those which followed, but chiefly at the close of the Eocene and Oligocene, when the great upheavals that raised the Alps extended in ripples to the northward. One of these is seen in the cuttings between Downton and Alderbury. From Downton, the chalk rises gradually towards the North for about 2½ miles, till it reaches the line of uplift of Dean Hill and Clearbury;† then in the last cutting it dips sharply to the North, and passes again beneath the Eocene. This unsymmetrical fold could only be produced by a force coming from the South. These folds have affected the chalk,‡ and the beds above it, throughout England and the Continent, and have bent them into shallow basin-like hollows. The chief of these are those of London, Hampshire, and Paris. Fordingbridge stands within the N.W. side of the Hampshire Basin, about two miles from where the chalk rises to the surface.

After Oligocene times the South of England became dry land, and remained so during the two succeeding periods. These were MIOCENE (less of the recent), in which though there was an

*—The Eocene and Oligocene strata are by some authors included in a single system HANTONIAN (from their occurrence in Hampshire), which is considered to be fairly equivalent in point of thickness and time to the preceding Cretaceous.

†—It is possible that this fold brings up the "Chalk-Rock" near to the surface in the neighbourhood of Matrimony Farm. If so, this bed, which is as hard as marble, and is everywhere used for road-metal, could be advantageously used for mending the turnpike.

‡—The highest chalk in England is at Walbury Beacon (S. Berks), 1,100 feet above the sea; in the Chilian Andes, beds of the same age are found at a height of 14,000 feet—in other words, the movements here since its formation have been sufficient to make hills, but not mountains.

increase of existing shell-fish, they were still in a minority; and the PLIOCENE (more of the recent) in which they were in a majority. During these ages, the rain and streams which ran down the slope of the strata began to mark out the existing valleys, *all* of which run towards the centre of the Basins.* Large portions of the Eocene beds were thus washed away, especially from the chalk uplands, sometimes leaving behind their harder parts, as in the case of the *Sarsen Stones*, or *Greywethers*, strewn in countless numbers on the Marlborough Downs. These are relics of the Reading Beds, or more probably of the Bagshot Sands, which have remained, while the surface of the country has wasted, and have been used to form the circles at Avebury and Stonehenge. Great masses of the chalk also were washed away or dissolved†—in short, the main work of the surface waters in carving out our hills and valleys was now done.

The close of the Pliocene period was marked by the setting in of a great cold.

In the succeeding age, this cold increased to such a degree as to affect the greater part of the northern hemisphere, where the eye familiar with ice-work may see written over plain and mountain alike—Jack Frost, his I I I I mark. This time is known as the ICE AGE, and lasted many thousand years. During the first part of it, all Scotland, and England as far South as the Tees, and the greater part of Wales and Ireland, were covered with immense glaciers, which smothered all the country, excepting the very highest points, in a sea of solid ice, filling up the Irish Sea, and overriding the Isles of Man and Anglesea and the Counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. After this, the country was submerged beneath the ice-laden sea, and became an archipelago of small islands—the uplands South of the Thames forming one of the largest. On its emergence it was again covered by snow fields and glaciers, though to a less extent than at first. Gradually the ice retired, and with it the Arctic plants and animals, and the country assumed its present aspect.

In this neighbourhood we have evidence of a submergence, probably contemporary with that of the Ice Age, in the tablelands covered with gravel (e.g., the Forest Plains) which extend throughout the Hampshire Basin. They are nearly co-extensive with the soft Kainozoic‡ beds, in which an approximately plane

*—Hence, while neither the Avon nor the Dorset Rivers could ever have flowed southwards through the range of the I. of W. and Purbeck Downs, a tributary might have and probably did flow northwards from land formerly to the South of the Downs.

†—The entire surface of the Downs is dissolved by the rain at the rate (with our present rainfall of 30 inches) of about 1-300th of an inch in a year, or ⅜ of a ton per acre. Hence the need of re-chalking porous soils.

‡—The Recent-life Period, including those later than the chalk.

surface was produced by a sea of no great depth. Excepting to the eastward this sea was shut in by the chalk downs, from which great quantities of flints were swept by the streams and snow-floods of the period and spread out over its bed. The river valleys, such as that of the Avon, which before the submergence had been partially formed, gave rise to hollows in the sea-bed, as we see, e.g., in the rise (100 feet in 3 miles) from Godshill to the Telegraph—the bottom of the valley being then continuous with this slope, or not much below the present edge of the plains. The slope also of the plains towards the Solent is due partly to the same cause—the drainage of the Avon and the Dorset Rivers then flowing eastwards along the line of the Solent; and perhaps also to the movement of emergence having been greatest along the old lines, as in the I. of Wight and Dean Hill, and so raising the contiguous parts of the sea-bed to a greater height than those in the centre of the basin. The amount of this rise at the Telegraph and Black Bush Plain has been at least 420 feet*—their present height above the sea.

As the sea retired, the river resumed its old channel and began to work up the gravels, usually forming thicker beds than those we find on the plains, and during flood-time covering them with layers of loam. Thus in Whiteshoot gravel pits on the hill at North Charford we find, above 14 feet of gravel, 2 to 4 feet of fine loam, left either by the retiring sea, or more probably by the flood waters of the Avon, which now runs 260 feet below.† Ever since this time it has gone on deepening its valley: in part relatively to the rise of the land; and in part actually, by cutting it out towards its source, and by its mouth being now at Christchurch instead of beyond Portsmouth. It has thus formed a groove about 200 feet deep at Fordingbridge, but whose deepest part lies between Dean Hill and Clearbury. As it has wandered from side to side of its valley, it has continually undermined and removed the gravels which at former periods it deposited.‡ Along the sides however of the valley, we find the remains of these deposits as flat shelves or terraces of gravel, sloping slightly towards the valley, showing the successive stages by which it has

*—It was in fact considerably more; for the rise continued till the British Isles were lifted high and dry to the 50 fathom, if not to the 100 fathom, line, and formed a part of the Continent, whose plants and animals were thus able to spread northwards, and re-people them. Our river then ran by way of the Solent, and southwards from Spithead, into the main river that flowed down the valley of the English Channel, and fell into the sea off the Lands End—as shown by a fresh-water mussel *(Unio)* dredged from that part of the Channel bed These changes in the position of sea and land during the Ice Age may have been due in part to movements of the ocean as a whole.—See note to page 81.

†—In the gravel at Redlynch, one mile to the N., and 230 feet above the river, a flint implement was found by Mr. J. Prestwich in 1869—Q.J.G.S., vol. xxviii., page 39.

‡—For this action see the bank at Burgate House or at Bickton Weir.

been deepened. These gravels are the harder material washed out of beds higher up the valley; some of it, such as the sand-stone from the Vale of Wardour, has come down many miles. Sometimes they contain seams of marl, with land and river shells. The higher gravels are rusty from age; the lower are white and broken small from frequent redeposition. They are found at heights of 175 feet, 150 feet, 100 feet, 50 feet, and 15 feet, above the present bed of the river.

The 175 feet terrace forms the higher parts of Godshill, Frogham, and Ibsley Common (on the hill).

The 150 feet terrace is seen on the top of Sandy Balls, as on the Southampton hill, where there are 2 feet of flood-loam, at Frogham, Hyde, Gorley, and Dorridge Hills, and Ibsley Common (on the hill).

The 100 feet terrace forms the hill-top at Woodgreen and Castle Hill, at Bower, Highfield, Midgham, Bleak Hill, Plumley, &c.

In this terrace we find the earliest traces of man. In the pit at Woodgreen are from 10 to 14 feet of gravel, in which, between the years 1870 and 1883, about two dozen implements and four flakes have been found*—all being contemporaneous with the deposit. Most of them have been found in place at depths varying from 1 to 9 feet. That they were made by human hands is shown, not so much by their degree of rudeness or finish, as by the evidence of design in their shape. Most of them are clipped to a pointed or tongue-shape, with a cutting edge all round, and many have been mounted in a cleft stick or handle; the pointed end being used for piercing, digging, boring, &c. Occasionally the thick or butt end is left rough, as though to be held in the hand; this is the case with a water-worn implement made of Green-sand chert—the only one yet found here which is made of this material. Others are of a flat oval or almond-shape, with a cutting edge all round, and, like the flakes, appear to have served for cutting or scraping, as we use a knife.† Some doubtless served for preparing skins. These implements seem rude to us; but they were the only edged tools of the primitive savage, who by dint of labour did more with them than one would imagine, or than any one would now. Most of them retain a small part of

*—An *implement* or *hache* is a tool made from a flint or other stone; *flakes*, the pieces struck off. In the Thames deposits at Crayford has been found one of the very spots where they were made, for by replacing some flakes upon an implement, one of the original flints was restored.—Q.J.G.S., vol. xxxvi., page 22.

†—The Mexicans used obsidian flakes for shaving—it required three to shave a man.

the original crust of the flint from which they were made; but the black flint of the interior is now stained yellow, and where not encrusted has a beautifully glossy surface. Some show an older weathered surface, formed while they lay exposed on the ground prior to their accumulation as gravel. Their edges and angles are usually more or less water-worn, showing that they were drifted in the river bed before reaching their final resting-place.

On Milford Hill (Salisbury), which forms a spur between the Valleys of the Avon and the Bourne, is 12 feet of gravel, 88 feet above the river, in which more than 350 of these implements have been found, besides many flakes and spalls. Most are made from flint, but some are of chert*—from the green-sand stone beneath the chalk. The majority are water-worn, but others are quite sharp. With them in the same gravel have been found a few decayed and water-worn fragments of bone, i.e., a tooth of Horse, a tooth of Woolly Rhinoceros, an antler of Reindeer, and a tooth and tusk of the great extinct Elephant—the Mammoth. Two feet below the tusk was an implement, now in the Blackmore Museum.

The precisely similar gravel that caps the hill above Fisherton Anger (Salisbury) has yielded about 50 implements.

The 50 feet terrace is well seen in the pit behind Lions' Lodge, thence to Fryern Court (where it is half-a-mile wide), and to Fordingbridge Station, where several implements have been found in the gravel along with a tooth of the Mammoth. In the tranquil reaches of the old River Nadder, near its junction with the Avon at Fisherton Anger, the carcasses of many other animals sank and were buried in the sediment of the turbid water—in places 30 feet thick, and now worked as a brick-earth. It forms a sloping surface, about 60 to 40 feet above the river, and in it an implement has been found beneath a tooth of the Mammoth.

From these remains, we know that men,† together with the mammoth, rhinoceros, reindeer, and other animals, inhabited the country for a very long time, during which the valley was cut out to a depth of at least 50 feet. The country was clothed with dense pine forests, in which wandered many great beasts, of kinds

*—In other parts of England implements have been found, though rarely, of quartzite, iron-stone, felstone, &c.

†—Known as *Palæolithic (Old-stone)* men; or *River-drift* men, from their remains being found in the drifted material of the rivers in southern and eastern England, France, around the Mediterranean, in India, and in N. America. Fragments of their bones found in the Valleys of the Rhine, Seine, and Somme, show that they had skulls of the long type *(Dolichocephalic)*, and were, undoubtedly, men, but are too imperfect to tell us to what race they belonged—a race probably as completely extinct as the mammoth or woolly rhinoceros.

larger than any now living. The Mammoth, an elephant with long curling tusks, and a long shaggy coat of reddish brown hair, browsed on the leaves of the pine trees, tearing down the branches with his trunk. The Tichorhine Rhinoceros also had a thick coat of woolly hair. Besides these animals specially adapted to withstand the winter cold, we find a number of arctic species—the musk-ox, the pouched marmot, the varying or Alpine hare, the Russian vole, the arctic fox *(Canis lagopus)*, the arctic lemming, and the reindeer, whose presence points conclusively to a cold climate, probably from 20° to 30° colder during the winter than now. There was also the great ox or Urus *(Bos primigenius)*, the buffalo or Aurochs *(Bison)*, and the red deer. The scanty grass of our downs sustained herds of a small-sized bison *(B. Minor)*, and two varieties of the horse, the larger of which corresponded with the Flemish horse; the smaller, which was the most numerous, may still be traced in the small rough ponies of the Forest.

The hunter of those times would therefore not be likely to suffer for want of game. He had, however, formidable competitors in the chase; and his nights were often broken by the roar of the lion, the yells of hyenas, or the howling of wolves which scoured in packs over the downs. Remains of the fox are also found, and the marks of his teeth may be seen on the bone of a goose.* The great bulk of the bones found at Fisherton are gnawed, and are those of young animals; the remainder belong mostly to old individuals. During the winter time the musk-ox and reindeer, migrating southward, scraped aside the snows to get at the grass and moss, and no doubt often availed themselves of the miniature stacks of hay collected in summer by the provident little marmots. The wandering hunters camped beside the frozen rivers, and made holes in the ice to get water, probably using their stone chisels, as do the Indians of arctic America. The barricading of the river by ground-ice doubtless produced floods, as now in the Rhine and Danube.

The return of spring brought the wild goose—as we tell by its egg-shells at Fisherton—which now only breeds in northern latitudes. The melting snows caused floods much greater than any that now occur, and swelled the river into a rushing torrent, sometimes surprising the marmots before they awoke from their winter's sleep, and burying them in sediment at the bottom of the river, as at Fisherton, where as many as 12 individuals were found within a few feet of each other. Also when the valleys were shallower, floods from snow† or heavy rain would be more frequent—from the water-level being nearer the surface of the

*—Blackmore Museum, No. 112.

†—Such as that in the Shrewton valley, Jan. 16th, 1841, when 73 cottages were swept away.

country. And the rainfall was probably greater then than now. Thus season by season the river deepened its valley, moving onwards its curves like the apparent movement of a corkscrew, till the present configuration was produced.*

Thus, though we cannot as yet get a date in years for the arrival of man in this country, we can at least form a vivid idea of his antiquity. From the implements which have been found on the Hampshire coast, we know that he must have seen the chalk downs of Dorset and those of the Isle of Wight forming one continuous range, and have wandered in valleys with flowing rivers where are now Poole Harbour, Bournemouth Bay, the Solent, and the Southampton Water.† In our own valley he must have seen the Avon running at a height of about 100 feet above its present level. And after the greater part of the deepening had been accomplished, and the arctic animals had left their bones in the Fisherton brick-earth, the climate had still time to change, and the great animals to become extinct. It is evident that the antiquity of man in Hampshire must be measured by hundreds of centuries.‡

The 15 feet terrace, on which Fordingbridge stands, and which everywhere forms the bottom of the valley, is the latest deposit of

*—The great effects produced by these small but ever active agents, rain and rivers, are admirably seen when we stand on Pistle Hill (320 feet), whose flat top, a relic of the old sea plain, was once continuous over the whole district. The great waste which this side of the valley has undergone is due to the soft sands of which it is composed, which have caused the destruction of all the plain of higher gravel. On the East side of the valley, where it is underlain by more clayey beds, it has been merely cut into deep side valleys or "bottoms."

†—The rivers which now fall into Poole Harbour, then ran past Bournemouth on a level with the top of the cliff.

‡—It seems likely that the cold of these times may have been to a large extent due to peculiarities in the motions of the earth around the sun, which does not move in an exact circle, but is furthest off at one time of the year. This eccentricity sometimes increases to as much as 1-13th of the average distance, and astronomers reckon that during the last million years there have been eight periods when it has been enough to make the pole, which at that season was turned away from the sun, appreciably colder. The most considerable of these periods was about 850,000 years ago, and lasted for about 50,000 years, during which the earth went every year so far away from the sun as only to get about ¾ as much heat as when it was nearest, while at the same time the winter was 7 months long. The two last occasions, when however the effect was less, were about 210,000 and 100,000 years ago.

And, further, because the pole of the earth has a wobbling motion around the pole of the ecliptic, like a top about to fall (in the case of the earth each complete wobble takes 25,000 years), it follows that at the time of the year when the earth is furthest from the sun any particular pole will be alternately turned away from the sun or towards it, so that at intervals of about 10,000 years, during a period of high eccentricity, this pole will either have an accumulation of ice or will enjoy perpetual summer. This would account for the presence at Fisherton of such animals as the lion and rhinoceros, which could hardly have lived there with the arctic animals. The shifting also of the ice from pole to pole, would alter the earth's centre of gravity, and so help to explain the changes in the level of sea and land, which as we have seen, occurred more than once during the Ice Age.

this time. In digging into it on the South side of the new Union Workhouse, in March, 1887, an upper molar tooth of the mammoth, weighing 11 lbs., was found 10 feet below the surface. It lay in sandy gravel just below the water level, in a singularly good state of preservation and not water-worn. Between Bickton Weir and the Mill this gravel contains a seam of marl with land-shells *(Pupa)*. Its thickness (16 feet at Bickton, 12 feet at Ringwood, &c.) shows that the river had still a greater volume than it has now. This lower gravel contains only a few implements, and for an account of the men of this time we must turn to the caves of England and central Europe, whose upper earths contain the relics of a later palaeolithic race, the *Cave-men*, who were in a higher stage of the hunter civilization—resembling in their tools, their art,* and their manner of life, the modern Eskimos, who are probably their descendants driven northward as the climate became warmer. These times of the ice and of palaeolithic men are known as the PLEISTOCENE (most recent) period—the shell-fish in the seas being then all of existing species. At the close of this period, North-western Europe sank a little, and the sea gradually crept up the valleys which had united Britain to Ireland, France, Germany, and Scandinavia, eating them out meanwhile, till its margin was about at the 10 fathom line. This change is marked by certain plants and animals peculiar to this neighbourhood, which got here before the bridge was broken down behind them, but not in sufficient force to spread further North—e.g., *Gladiolus Illyricus*, an orchid (*Spiranthes æstivalis*), the sand lizard (*Lacerta stirpium*), a snake (*Coronella lævis*), and many insects.

During the time that followed, the force of our river was much diminished, and all it did was to work out an insignificant channel in the lower gravel, and to deposit a little mud, such as the clay with river shells that forms its banks near the town.† To this time belong the implements that have been ground to an edge or polished all over (celts), which are found scattered on the downs, on heaths, moors, or in boggy ground, or are turned up by the plough from the surface soil of our fields. Hence the time to which they belong is named the *Surface Stone Age*, or *Neolithic* (New Stone) *Age*—embracing a time probably only a few thousand years ago. The people who made them crossed over from the Continent in canoes—some 40 feet long—which they

*—They scratched on bone artistic sketches of the animals they hunted, such as the extinct Cave-bear, Reindeer, Mammoth, and many others.

†—At the present time it hardly erodes the valley at all, its force when in flood being almost wholly checked by the mill-dams, and even its corkscrew movement is largely counteracted by piling. In fact the straining of its waters by irrigation, and the deposits from them in flood-time, are gradually raising the level of the meadows.

hollowed out of the trunks of large trees, partly by the aid of fire, and partly with their stone axes and adzes, ground to a wonderfully sharp edge and set in wooden handles.

At Highfield (Fisherton) they lived in "pit dwellings"—pits entered at the top by a circular shaft and then sunk in the chalk in the shape of a bee-hive, from 5 to 7 feet wide at the bottom, and sometimes communicating by passages. The roofs were lined with interlaced sticks plastered with burnt clay. From the remains found in these holes we know that the inhabitants could spin, sew, weave, and mould pottery. They grew wheat, and ground it between two concave stones; they fished; they hunted the stag with flint-headed spears and arrows; and kept dogs, goats, short-horns, horses, and pigs. In other places, as at Brandon (Suffolk) and Cissbury (Sussex), they carefully mined the chalk to get flint of good quality, digging with their stone celts, and with chisels and picks made out of stag's antlers. At the end of a gallery where the roof had fallen in, two of these picks were found exactly as left by the workmen, and bore the marks of their fingers after a lapse of at least 3,000 years.

The hill camps adjoining the valleys, such as Old Sarum, Castle Hill, Castle Ditches (Whitsbury), Badbury Rings, &c., were probably made by these people—by those who lived in the valleys beneath—as places of refuge for themselves and their flocks and herds during a raid; showing that they were split up into small communities usually at war with each other after the fashion of the modern Africans.

The *long* barrows on the downs, sometimes containing stone chambers, are their tombs, in which they were buried in a contracted position. In the upper part of the barrow are often found the bones of oxen which were eaten at the funeral feast. Usually a number of skeletons are found together, in some cases with vessels of pottery, stone axe-heads, or leaf-shaped arrow-heads, probably intended for the use of the dead in the after-world—a practice which still lingers in some parts of Europe. Often the things have been purposely broken, from the idea that their spirits might join that of their owner; and many of the skulls are cleft, probably from the same idea.

The average height of these people was about 5ft. 6in. Their skulls are very long and narrow, and are similar to those from the cemeteries of the Spanish Basques, the descendants of the ancient Iberian race of history, with whom the Silures of Wales were identified by Tacitus. The domestic animals and cereals of these Neolithic people are known to have come from Southern Europe, Asia Minor, and Central Asia, showing us from whence they migrated. The civilization they introduced is the starting-point of our history; their arts are the basis of ours; and their domestic animals and cereals are still cultivated by the farmer.

During this age the downward movement of the land still continued, as is proved by submerged forests and peat bogs on various parts of the British Coasts, containing flint chips, cut antlers, and the bones of short-horns, sheep, goats, and other domestic animals of the period. In Portsmouth Dockyard one of these old land surfaces, with rooted trees, was found 30 feet below the sea level, and a similar bed of peat at the bottom of the new Dock at Southampton—showing how these and other harbours on the South Coast have originated.

To the next age belong by far the greater number of the barrows on our downs—those which are bowl-shaped, bell-shaped, or disc-shaped. These *round* barrows contain very round skulls and many objects of bronze, which at this time, the *Bronze Age*, was beginning to take the place of stone. The average height of the men in these barrows was 5ft. 9in. They are identified with the Celtic race of history, who after the introduction of bronze, which took place probably at least 1,200 or 1,400 years B.C., overran the British Isles till the Iberians were left only in Wales, or survived here and there in a state of slavery. Our round barrows belong to the earlier part of this age, when bronze was still very scarce; for besides bronze daggers and bronze celts (axes) of a wedge-shaped form modelled from those in stone, they contain stone arrow-heads, axes, and half-finished implements with the stones for grinding and polishing them, drinking cups, bone and bronze pins, beads, buttons, rings, and other ornaments, of amber, jet and gold; red ochre for colouring the skin, and pieces of flint and pyrites for striking fire—intended for the use of the dead as in the Stone Age. In most of these barrows however—in 3 out of 4—the dead have been burned together with their belongings, in order to liberate the soul or essence of the things, which alone was of service to the ghost; and the remains are frequently preserved in an urn.

In making the cutting at Fordingbridge Station in 1865, eight or more of these urns were found resting on the gravel at a depth of 9 inches to 1 foot below the surface. They were of the usual coarse hand-made pottery of the period, were inverted, without any covering to the mouth, and were filled with small fragments of burnt bones. The surrounding subsoil was very dark, and contained a large admixture of small fragments of charcoal, but there were no associated ornaments or weapons, nor was there the slightest trace of any kind of tumulus; and Dr. Blackmore conjectures that these were the burial places of the poorer people of the period. Like the tombs of the kings in the implement-bearing breccia at Luxor, they show the relatively great age of the palaeolithic gravel on which they rest—See page 79.

The stones at Avebury and Stonehenge were set up either during the Stone Age by the long barrow people, who moved

stones to form the chambers in their tombs, and who placed within them symbolic monoliths and triliths; or more probably by the round-headed race whose round barrows of the Early Bronze Age cluster so thickly around them—106 around Avebury, and about 300 within sight of Stonehenge. Stonehenge is probably the later, as its stones are worked, and the surrounding barrows* are more elaborate. Its religious purpose is shown by the inner horseshoe and circle of foreign stones (probably set up first) which must have been brought to the plain under the influence of some such feeling, and also by its stones having been placed with exact reference to the rising of the midsummer sun. During the Bronze Age, the Belgic race, which was closely related to the Celtic, crossed over from the Continent, and occupied the southern counties of England. They were formerly thought to have constructed the various lines of defence or boundary lines which cross the downs, such as Wansdyke, Grims Dyke, and Bokerley Dyke, but General Pitt-Rivers' excavations have proved these to have been made after the time of the Romans; thus at Woodyates the dyke has been thrown up over the Roman Road, and contains many Roman coins.

Remains of the later Bronze Age, which is characterised by more elaborate articles, as socketed celts, leaf-shaped swords, &c., are very rare in this neighbourhood.

Iron was probably introduced into this country four or five centuries before Cæsar landed (55 B.C.), when he found the natives well acquainted with its use. During the Roman occupation some of the natives continued to live in pit dwellings, which can still be seen on Woodcutts Common, about 2 miles beyond Handley (and 13 from Fordingbridge), where they are associated with Roman wells of considerable depth, and *hypocausts* or vapour baths. These dwellings, which are enclosed within earthen ramparts and ditches, have been excavated and examined with great care by General Pitt-Rivers, and the remains, which are of a very varied nature, are deposited in the admirable museum at Farnham village, some 2 miles distant.

The ages preceding the Roman, in which men occupied the country before the times of written history, are therefore termed *prehistoric*, of which we may thus get to know something by the traces they have left on the earth.

We have seen how this part of the earth, though formed only in its more recent periods, has been four times covered by seas—the Cretaceous, London Clay, Nummulitic, and Glacial. In these alternations of sea and land, and in the gradual changes in their

*—Three of those near the stones contained chippings both of the foreign *and* sarsen stones.

living creatures, we have seen how the outward and visible order of things has been ever changing and giving place to new throughout those long ages. Beginning with the days of the chalk, when the earth and air and seas were dominated by lizards, when birds had teeth, and horses had five toes, and before the greater mountain chains of Europe and America had come into existence, we have glanced at a fragment of the earth's history, up to the coming of man towards and for which these changes have been working. Thus the small part of the earth's surface that lies around our town may enlarge our thoughts of the world, and so enable us to form a better notion of our place in it.

In the foregoing sketch I am largely indebted to the following authors, to whom the reader, who wishes to follow the subject further, may refer:—

Blackmore—"Millford Hill," *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xxi., p. 250 (1865).

Codrington—"Superficial Deposits of Hants," *Q. J. G. S.*, vol. xxvi., p. 528 (1870).

Dawkins—"Cave Hunting," 1874; "Early Man in Britain," 1880.

Evans—"Ancient Stone Implements," 1872; Lecture, "Unwritten History," *Nature*, September 21st, 28th, 1882.

Gardner—"The British Eocenes," *Proc. Geol. Assoc.*, vol. vi., p. 83 (1879). "The Bournemouth Beds," *P. G. A.*, vol. v., p. 51 (1877); *Q. J. G. S.*, vol. xxxv., p. 209 (1878); vol. xxxviii., p. 1 (1881).

Geikie, A.—"Text Book of Geology," 1882.

Huxley—Lectures: "A Piece of Chalk," 1868.

Jukes-Browne—"The Building of the British Isles," 1888.

Kingsley, Chas.—Essays: "Bio-Geology," 1870.

Lubbock—"Prehistoric Times," 1869.

Lyell—"Principles of Geology," 1872; "Elements of Geology," 1878; "Antiquity of Man," 1873.

Prestwich—"British Eocenes," *Q.J.G.S.*, vols. ii.-xiii., 1836-1856.

Stevens—Catalogue of the Salisbury Museum, 1864; "Flint Chips," 1870; "Jottings on the Stonehenge Excursion," 1876.

Geological Survey Map of England. Sheet 15.

APPENDIX.

Boring at the Gas Works, Fordingbridge, 1887, by Messrs. Tilley. Level of ground, 88 feet above Ordnance Datum. Water from the sand at 125 feet rose to 13 feet above the ground.

		Thickness FEET	Depth FEET
Soil.	Black mould	2	
River gravel	Broken subangular gravel in a good deal of sand	12	14
Lower Bagshot, base of?	Fine grey quartz sand, clayey in places	6	20
London Clay, 118 feet.	Grey sandy clay	8	28
	Sand and pebbles	2	30
	Hard stiff clay	10	40
	Sand, with pebbles at the base	4	44
	Sandy clay	6	50
	Septarium containing fossils, *Turritella imbricataria*, &c.	1	51
	Clay	8	59
	Hard stone	1	60
	Dark clay	7	67
	Dark clay with shells, probably *Pholadomya*	3	70
	Dark bluish clay	14	84
	Hard stone	½	84½
	Dark bluish clay, with a few small pebbles—*Cardita planicosta, Rostellaria lucida* Sow, *Turritella imbricataria*	7	91½
	Hard stone	½	92
	Clay	8	100
	Brown clay, very hard and compact	4	104
	Septarium (met with at same depth in both borings)	1½	105½
	Sand and clay, with water under the stone	20	125½
	Sand and water	3	128½
	Sandy clay	7	135½
	Sand, shale, and pebbles (Basement bed? Doubtful if pebbles are more than 6in. thick)	3	138½

APPENDIX—Continued.

			Thickness FEET	Depth FEET
Reading Beds, 74 feet.		Light grey clay, laminated with grey sand	6	144½
		Greenish-brown loam, with a little glauconite sand and lignite	11½	156
		Buff-coloured calcareous stone, 4 inches	¼	156¼
		Light brown clay	3¾	160
		Brown clay	2	162
	Mottled Clay, 31 feet.	Whitish-grey or pale green clay, with occasional streaks of red	14	176
		Light grey pipe clay	1	177
		Red clay	3	180
		Yellow clay, greyer towards the base	8	188
		Dark-brown or chocolate-coloured clay	2	190
		Purple clay streaked with ochre	3	193
	Marl 9 feet.	Pale buff-coloured marl	3	196
		White highly calcareous marl	4	200
		Pale green or olive-coloured marl with small calcareous lumps	2	202
		Green-sand (glauconitic quartz and iron grains) with *oyster* shells	10	212
Chalk			7	219

PRINTED BY W. H. KING AND CO., FORDINGBRIDGE.

'CAXTON HOUSE'
45 SALISBURY STREET
FORDINGBRIDGE HAMPSHIRE

***

IN THE 19TH CENTURY 'CAXTON HOUSE' WAS
OCCUPIED BY THE PRINTING WORKS OF
TITUS MITCHELL, SUCCEEDED BY W.H. KING & CO.
THE PRINTERS OF THE THREE EDITIONS OF
HANNEN'S 'HISTORY OF FORDINGBRIDGE'

***

THIS EDITION IS A FACSIMILE OF THE 3RD
EDITION PUBLISHED IN 1909

300 COPIES HAVE BEEN PRINTED

[THIS BEING No. 208]

AND ARE PUBLISHED BY

BRISTOW & GARLAND
Antiquarian Booksellers
at the above address
from whom copies may be obtained